



HCS BOARD OF EDUCATION MONTHLY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

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Vol. 2, No. 6 - June 10, 2019

Graduation 2019 and End of the 2018-19 School Year

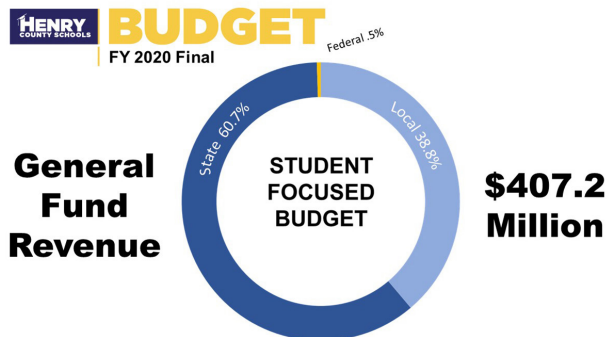
The end of the 2018-19 school year was celebrated with a recap of graduation ceremonies from across the district. Over 3,000 students walked across their respective high school stages to receive their diploma and turn their tassel in a culmination of their educational experience in Henry County Schools. Congratulations Class of 2019!



Final Budget Adopted

The board unanimously passed the budget for the 2019-20 (FY20) school year during the business session meeting, making this upcoming year's budget the largest in school system history. As shared in previous reports, this represents the second straight year the district has constructed a budget that addresses the main focus of student learning while also providing increases in salaries to district employees.

The board noted in their comments that this budget has a strong emphasis on recognizing the outstanding and dedicated employees who serve our school district each day. That is why they sought to provide salary increases and applicable step increases across the board, including a \$19.8 million total investment at the school level and \$2.2 million at the district level. They also maintained their focus of being good stewards of taxpayer resources by adding \$2.5 million to the district's fund balance to maintain the recommended level of 13 percent of the district's annual operating expenses.



Better together.

Board Members

Josh Hinton (Chair) District 2
joshua.hinton@henry.k12.ga.us

Holly Cobb (Vice Chair) District 3
holly.cobb@henry.k12.ga.us

Dr. Pam Nutt District 1
pam.nutt@henry.k12.ga.us

Sophe Pope District 4
sophe.pope@henry.k12.ga.us

Annette Edwards District 5
annette.edwards@henry.k12.ga.us

Mary Elizabeth Davis Superintendent
maryelizabeth.davis@henry.k12.ga.us

District Strategic Priorities

Unify

Unify Henry County around excellence in public education.

Strengthen

Strengthen our core business of student learning.

Ensure

Ensure a high performing environment for all students.





Instructional Resources Approved

Melissa Morse, Chief Learning and Performance Officer, shared information with the board regarding the recent review period of instructional resource materials from two different publishers being sought for a long-term partnership. After a thorough review and feedback provided by district officials and other key stakeholders, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt (HMH) was the publisher identified to best provide the strategic partnership and long-term commitment sought by the district. Close to 250 teachers and community members were able to review the materials provided by the two resource publishers. HMH showed a strong commitment to being a dedicated partner in this multi-staged approach to providing a dynamic, engaging mix of print and digital resources for our teachers and students to learn.



When establishing their core beliefs and commitments, the board placed a strong focus on supporting students and teachers across all levels within the district, and that means providing them with the necessary tools and resources to be successful. By unanimously approving the recommendation by Morse, the board is allowing for the acquisition and distribution of educational content/instructional materials for teachers and students in all core content areas and grade levels.

Content area coverage includes:

- 6-12 ELA
- K-5 and 6-12 Mathematics
- K-5 and 6-12 Science
- K-5 and 6-12 (except 8th grade) Social Studies
- Literacy (Read-180 and System 44) and Math (Math-180 and Do the Math) Intervention

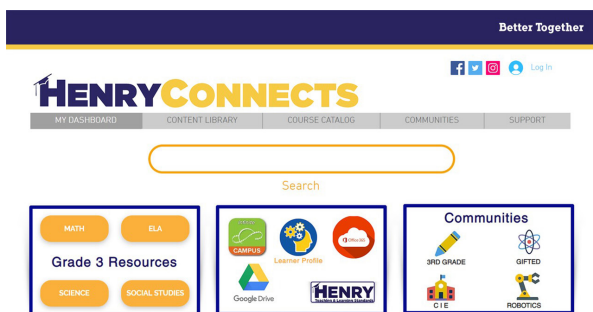
Included in the agreement with HMH, Henry County Schools will receive:

- Professional development over the course of the partnership
- Use of the universal screening tools: Reading Inventory (RI) and Mathematics Inventory (MI)
- Updates to digital content to keep fresh and cutting-edge
- Digital integration support for Henry Connects, as well as the student
- Significant discounts on any additional purchases to be made in future years for additional content

This action by the board on one of their top priorities ensures that materials will be in classrooms in time for the start of the new school year.

Henry Connects

Dr. Brian Blanton, Chief Information Officer, had the opportunity to share with the board an update to the district's efforts to create and provide a digital ecosystem for district employees, students, and eventually families. This one-stop-shop idea has been met with great excitement as it bundles many of the resources utilized by the identified stakeholder groups into one location for easy retrieval and management. The Information Services Division has begun the process of identifying a company capable of working in a strategic manner to support this important endeavor to support the work of students, staff, and community members.



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Early Literacy Model Updates

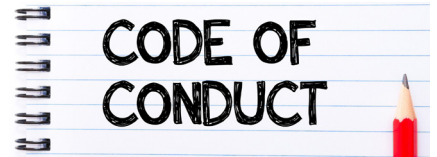
Chief Learning and Performance Officer Melissa Morse also had the chance to present to the board exciting news regarding the returns on the Early Literacy Model (ELM) the district has been piloting in 14 elementary schools across the district. The ELM was developed as a systematic cycle of reading instruction, progress monitoring, and intervention. It included common instructional pace and phonics assessments, district/school data conversations, and real-time intervention and acceleration. In just the first year, pilot schools saw an increase in the levels of student performance, a decrease in the number of students needing additional interventions, and a strong change in the culture at the schools.

With the phonics benchmark scores, the 14 pilot schools saw an average increase of 11 percentage points at the end of the year assessment compared to the mid-year assessment. The Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) assessments showed a 13 percentage point increase for students at the pilot schools when comparing the beginning of the year to the end of the year. Additionally, eight out of the 14 pilot schools had double-digit percentage point increases. On the Georgia Kindergarten Inventory of Developing Skills (GKIDS) assessment, 10 out of the 14 pilot schools showed an increase on the ELA portion of the assessment compared to the previous school year, and three of those schools had increases of at least 23.4 percentage points.

Moving forward, the 14 pilot schools will now continue their exploration with the ELM in 1st grade, while all other elementary schools will now use the ELM in Kindergarten.

Code of Conduct

Nicole Holcomb, Executive Director of Legal Compliance, and Lajuana Ransaw, legal counsel, presented the final update to the district’s Code of Conduct. The board took action to approve the new Code of Conduct which will serve students and families across the county through one consolidated document found in the Parent/Student Handbook. The latest version of the Code of Conduct does designate the various disciplinary actions that can be taken against elementary students and secondary students based on the violations a student may incur. The code of conduct is revised annually through community feedback and stakeholder input. Interested individuals may review the latest version of the code of conduct by clicking on the following link: [2019-2020 Code of Conduct](#)



Leadership on the Move

Name	New Position/Location	Former Position/Location
William Kirk Shrum	<u>Chief School Leadership Officer</u> Learning & Performance Division	<u>Area Executive Director</u> Fulton County Schools
Mitch Stephens	<u>Director of Assessment</u> Learning & Performance Division	<u>Principal</u> Ola Elementary
Sonya Ayunnuga	<u>Principal</u> Rocky Creek Elementary	<u>Assistant Principal</u> Rocky Creek Elementary
Dr. Saakira Akbar	<u>Principal</u> Red Oak Elementary	<u>Assistant Principal</u> Atlanta Public Schools
Pamela Burgess	<u>Fine Arts Coordinator</u> District Office	<u>Personalized Learning Coach</u> Henry County Middle School
Dr. Robbie Hooker	<u>Superintendent</u> Social Circle City Schools	
Dr. Jay Fowler	<u>Principal</u> Rabun County Schools	



Awards and Recognition for Students and Staff



Henry County Retired Educators Scholarship



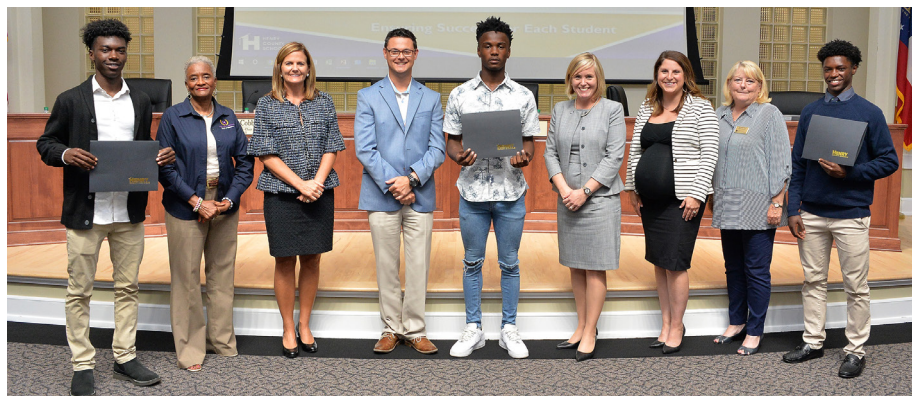
Relay for Life



GHSA State Track & Field Champions



GHSA State Track & Field Champion



GHSA State Track & Field Champions

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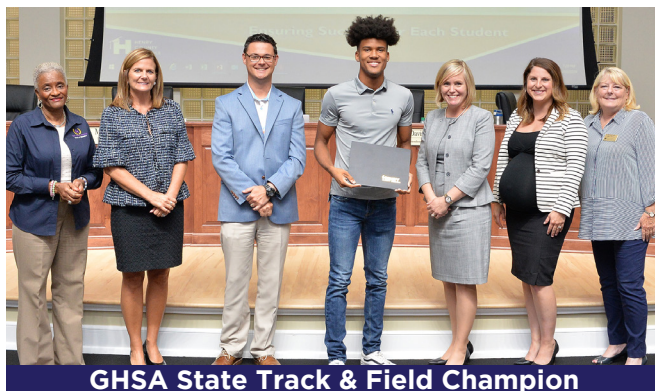
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GHSA State Track & Field Champion



GHSA State Track & Field Champion



GHSA State Track & Field Champion



GHSA State Golf Champions



Cross-Functional Study Teams

Board Member Remarks



Dr. Pam Nutt
District 1

Dr. Nutt highlighted Locust Grove Elementary for a student participating on the show Are You Smarter Than a 5th Grader. New Hope Elementary was noted for its high level of 4-H Club participants. Over 800 people attended the Unity Grove Elementary Spring Exhibition Night including a team of educators from South Carolina looking to implement personalized learning.



Josh Hinton
Board Chair
District 2

Mr. Hinton recognized the Dutchtown HS 4x100 Track Team and Ja'Shaun Poke for winning the 400m. All new hires were featured and he praised the passage of the latest budget. He also noted his visit to the new high school and middle school and shared how impressive they are. He wished Dr. Hooker much success in his new job in Social Circle as superintendent.



Holly Cobb
Board Vice Chair
District 3

Mrs. Cobb congratulated Eagle's Landing HS for their graduation ceremony. She also congratulated the Ola HS Boy's Golf Team for their state championship. Union Grove HS was noted for earning the region director's cup and the sportsmanship award. She also remarked about the outstanding facilities of McDonough HS and McDonough MS.



Sophe Pope
District 4

Mrs. Pope thanked all the employees for their work during the 2018-19 school year. She also noted the impressive facilities at McDonough HS and McDonough MS. She wished everyone a safe and happy summer. She also featured EXCEL Academy for their outstanding graduation ceremony.



Annette Edwards
District 5

Mrs. Edwards noted her recent trip to tour the new schools - McDonough high and middle. She also remarked about the construction of the new Performing Arts Center in Fairview. She congratulated all the graduates for 2019. She also thanked all employees for the work they do for the district.



Mary Elizabeth Davis
Superintendent

Supt. Davis highlighted many of the new additions (and small subtractions) to the district, including:
Chief Leadership Officer - Kirk Shrum
Rocky Creek Elem. Principal - Sonya Ayannuga
Director of Assessment - Mitch Stephens
Coordinator of Fine Arts - Pamela Burgess
Dr. Robbie Hooker has been approved as the new Superintendent of Social Circle City Schools.

She closed out her remarks by wishing everyone a great summer.