



HCS BOARD OF EDUCATION MONTHLY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

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Vol. 3, No. 8 - February 10, 2020

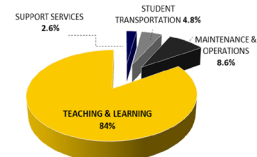
Student Performances Provide Abundance of Inspiration

Henry County Schools is home to some of the most incredibly talented students. Each month, students from select schools are able to perform in front of the board of education, district leaders, and meeting attendees as a way to kick off the evening's business session. This month included a double feature, as students from Fairview Elementary were able to feature a production around Black History Month, and students from Austin Road Elementary performed their Literacy Days skit before a packed crowd. Both groups ensured those in attendance were inspired and left the meeting that night with a great appreciation for the many talents all of our students possess.



Budget Setting Season is Here

Chief Financial Officer Christy Willis followed up her financial reports presentation by discussing the timeline for the budget setting for FY 2021. This pivotal time of year enables the district to hear the many voices from the community around their important issues for the upcoming budget. Leadership and Board Members were given some clear examples and ideas by the community members present to help them formulate what is important as a focus for the upcoming budget. This year's event was combined with the efforts to get members of the community engaged in the strategic planning process. [Click here](#) to find more about the Strategic Planning process.



- STUDENT FOCUSED**
- TEACHING & LEARNING
 - MAINTENANCE & OPERATIONS
 - TRANSPORTATION
 - SUPPORT SERVICES

Better together.

Board Members

Josh Hinton (Chair) District 2
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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.





District Strategic Plan Update

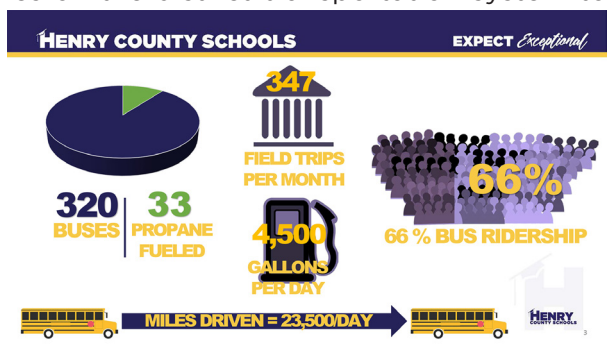
Dr. Carl Knowlton, Chief of Staff, had another opportunity, along with Superintendent Davis, to provide an update on the progress being made with regards to the long-range strategic planning process. This important effort for the district will set the course for the five to ten years, and in the end, it will encompass thousands of voices from all corners of the county. In the end, the result will be a commonly shared plan and expectation for the district which will ensure and guide the success of students for years to come.

On the heels of multiple stops at schools and three larger community meetings, the board held a meeting in between its regularly-scheduled monthly meetings to engage the community in strategic planning and budget discussions. Interested stakeholders were able to utilize prearranged posters throughout the district offices to list their thoughts and feedback on the strategic priorities, core beliefs and commitments, and common themes. They were also able to answer the questions regarding the purpose of Henry County Schools and their hopes and dreams for students in the district.

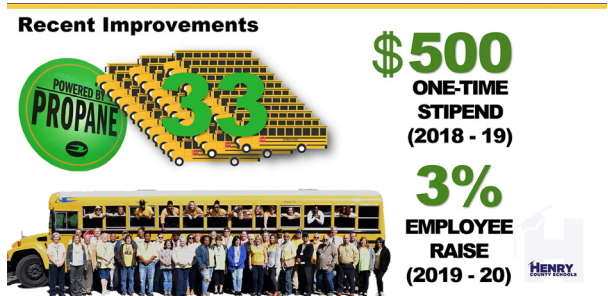
The questions and setup were identical to the exercises being conducted in faculty meetings, school council meetings, and other district-wide gatherings over the past month. In all, over 7,000 voices have been heard since the beginning of this important step for our board and district. All feedback is being collected and stored, and the findings will be utilized to develop the final strategic plan for Henry County Schools.

The Wheels on the Bus

Nearly 60 percent of the student population relies on the district transportation system to deliver them where they need to go. On any given day, just over 300 buses are crisscrossing the county, stopping in many neighborhoods to pick up and drop off our future leaders, neighbors, community members. Chief Operations Officer Josh Malcom was able to provide the board with a robust collection of facts and stats about the magnitude of the department's efforts to keep the wheels on the bus(es) in motion.



The district has put an emphasis on a bus fleet replacement plan in an effort to help phase out many of the older school buses and replace them with cleaner burning fuel and air conditioned buses. The bus driver is often the first face a student will see in their school career, and our district is working hard to attract and retain the best drivers in the area. It takes a special person to be able to transport children safely while also navigating the many challenges that come with that.



We are fortunate to have a strong department responsible for district transports. Work will continue on this initiative to ensure more buses and great drivers for the most important job of starting a kid's day off right with a positive experience from the bus on which they ride.

Comprehensive Policy Review Update & February Recommendation Action

Once again, Dr. Knowlton was able to continue his monthly presentation before the board pertaining to the district's comprehensive policy review. All 170 current Henry County BOE policies are being reviewed by an external agency to see which ones are required by state law or the state board of education, as well as those that are specific to local action and those not required at all. The latest recommendations from GSBA (the external agency conducting the review) centered on



Comprehensive Policy Review Update (Continued)

18 different policies that will be put before the public for their review of the noted modifications. Throughout the review, the policies presented will be put into one of three categories:

- Repeal or not required (Due to policy being outdated, laws changing, or it could better served in a regulation or exhibit.)
- Retain with revisions (Due to changes in laws or local practices.)
- Retain with no changes (Due to policy being sufficient in its current form.)

The local board will consider the recommendation and all public comments as they move forward in the process. The board will continue this review of recommendations in upcoming meetings and take action as needed until all policies are examined. A review of the policies up for review can be found here.

The recommendations for the slate of policies presented during January’s board meetings were unanimously approved.

Safety and Security Update

Chief Leadership Officer Kirk Shrum’s presentation before the Board honed in on their support of safety and security measures for the district. Over the past couple of years, substantial improvements have been made toward strengthening our schools as a safe and inviting space for our students and staff to work, learn, and grow.

Not all enhancements required financial support, and Shrum was able to detail the many efforts that were cost-neutral, required minimal costs, or required a long-term investment.

Some of the cost-neutral investments include:

- All exterior doors are locked and all interior doors are locked during business hours
- Review of Emergency Ready Reference Manual w/ all principals and asst. principals
- Intruder training (lockdown) conducted 2x per year in all schools
- All school and district office personnel will prominently display their ID badges at the school and district office buildings
- All school and staff personnel will address any visitor who does not display a Henry County Schools’ ID badge or visitor’s badge



Minimal costs and long-term investments include:

- All schools will practice standardized check-in procedures (CheckMate System)
- Update to functionality of CheckMate System
- Implementation of Social Emotional Learning and Wraparound practices within the school buildings.
- Pilot a Campus Emergency Response System (High Schools)
- Pilot a Buzzer/Key Card System at the newly constructed McDonough High School and McDonough Middle School
- Five additional School Resource Officers (SRO); providing a 1:1 ratio in middle and high schools
- High school single-point entry doors like the middle and elementary schools



The success of the piloted campus response system enabled district leaders to present a recommendation to the board to move forward with purchasing the services of the response system for the entire district. The Board voted unanimously to approve the one-time purchase.

EXPECT *Exceptional*



Other Agenda Items

The following business items were also unanimously approved as a part of the consent agenda for the evening meeting:

- Campus Response System Purchase Approved - Thanks to the money earmarked by Governor Kemp and the respective legislative bodies under the Gold Dome, districts have approximately \$30,000 to spend toward safety enhancements and measures that will protect schools. The Board approved the purchase of goods from a company that will be responsible implementing the system in all schools prior to the start of the 2020-2021 school year.

Leadership on the Move

Name	New Position/Location	Former Position/Location
Kristin Callaway	Project Coordinator Communications/Public Relations	Director Main Street McDonough
Barry Miles	Director of Maintenance Facilities & Maintenance	Maintenance Foreman Facilities & Maintenance

Awards and Recognition for Students and Staff



District Spelling Bee



District Spelling Bee Winner



Disney Dreamer's Academy



District Academic Team Champions



National History Day Winning Duo



G. Hutchinson Outstanding SS Educator



Awards and Recognition for Students and Staff



J. Stokes Exemplary Service Award



Title I Reward School

BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS



HENRY COUNTY SCHOOLS

We are on an ambitious pursuit to be the **FASTEST-IMPROVING**, and **HIGHEST-ACHIEVING** school district in metro-Atlanta while prioritizing **STUDENT CONNECTIVITY** and belief in the **CAPABILITY OF ALL CHILDREN**.

HCS BOARD OF EDUCATION



Board Member Remarks



Dr. Pam Nutt
District 1

Dr. Nutt started by thanking Dr. Crump and Mrs. Edwards for attending the Boys & Girls Club gala in Macon. She congratulated the MHS boys basketball team for making it to the state playoffs. Locust Grove MS was noted for earning the Teamwork Champion Award at the Henry County Invitational VEX Qualifier and making it to the VEX Robotics State Championships. Shruti Borra from Rocky Creek Elementary was congratulated for finishing in 3rd place in the HCS Spelling Bee. New Hope and Rock Spring Elementary schools were highlighted for having a great showing in the 4-H competition. Luella HS was thanked for hosting one of the Community Voice - Strategic Planning Town Hall Meetings.



Josh Hinton
Board Chair
District 2

Mr. Hinton started by noting that Hampton HS has a Social-Emotional Learning block that was featured and observed by several school districts and state representatives for their outstanding work. Oakland Elementary's Reading Bowl team was noted for its finish in the recent reading competition. Finally, Bethlehem Elementary was noted for its Lego Robotics team competing in the regionals in Columbus. The team will now go on to the Super Regionals. He thanked everyone for their participation in the strategic planning meetings and wished everyone a happy winter break.



Holly Cobb
Board Vice Chair
District 3

Mrs. Cobb celebrated the middle school basketball teams from Union Grove MS (7th Grade Boys and 8th Grade Girls) for their county championships. Eagle's Landing MS had several students earn honors at the recent district science fair: Ananya Augustine (1st Place - Behavioral and Social Science), Mary Rozier (1st Place - Earth and Environmental Sciences), and Ananya Superiwala (1st Place - Earth and Environmental Sciences). Hickory Flat Elementary had a successful Milestones Parent & Student Information meeting. Over 100 families were in attendance to learn about the upcoming assessment. Abby Cornell and Ashleigh Eidson from Union Grove HS were congratulated for being named the STAR Student and Teacher for Henry County. She thanked the Chamber of Commerce for their support of this event. Finally, she thanked the parents that have come out for the Community Voice - Strategic Planning Town Hall Meetings.



Sophe Pope
District 4

Mrs. Pope noted East Lake Elementary and Union Grove MS for taking first place in the district reading bowl competition and then moving on to the regional competition. Eagle's Landing MS was featured for Mrs. Pope's day of shadowing a student for a day. Eagle's Landing Middle School's Math Team, led by Mr. Proveaux, finished 3rd in the Griffin RESA math competition. The McDonough HS boys and girls basketball teams both made it to the state playoffs and were applauded for their accomplishments. The McDonough HS students were recognized for completing their first Mock Interview Fair. Ms. Pope shared remarks on the STAR Student Breakfast and congratulating Abby Cornell from Union Grove HS and her teacher Ashleigh Eidson for being named the STAR Student and Teacher. She thanked everyone for being a part of the Community Voice - Strategic Planning Town Hall Meetings, and she thanked the students who performed at the board meeting this evening.



Annette Edwards
District 5

Mrs. Edwards featured WMS Teacher Erin Bundridge who was elected as the Middle School Liaison to the Georgia School Counselor Association. The Woodland MS Boys 8th Grade Basketball team was congratulated for winning the county championship. Austin Road Elementary was noted for its early morning power hour as it is helping students with instructional practices before school starts each day. She closed her remarks by sharing her excitement around the STAR Student Breakfast recognition on Thursday, February 6.



Mary Elizabeth Davis
Superintendent

Supt. Davis started by providing remarks on the outstanding Black History Month performance at tonight's meeting. School counselors were honored as a part of their national week of recognition. She congratulated the work of our high schools for their showing as a part of the state Advanced Placement honors. She wished everyone a restful winter break next week.