



HCS BOARD OF EDUCATION MONTHLY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

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Better together.

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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.



Best 1st Day Ever Celebrated

The August Board of Education meetings took place a mere 4 days after the start of the 2021-2022 school year, but there was still so much to reflect on regarding the return to campus and learning for our growing student population of almost 44,000 and 6,000 employees.

The energy and excitement of the start of schools was captured and shared through #Best1stDayEverHCS, and the many images, videos, and words of our students, staff, and community truly captured just how ready everyone was to get this school year started. To get a glimpse of what a whirlwind day the first day was, watch this short video by [clicking here](#).



District Moves to Level 4 of COVID-19 Management Plan; Meeting Attendance, Procedures Adjusted

Ahead of the August Study Session and Business Session meetings, Henry County Schools moved to Level 4 on the 2021-2022 COVID-19 Management Plan which requires masks indoors and reduced capacity for indoor events. On an earlier briefing call with hospital executives, the department of public health, county government leaders, and emergency management officials, all county leaders were urged to modify public meetings and events to further ensure the safety of our community. The modifications that followed included moving certain portions of the meeting to

LEVEL 4
CURRENT LEVEL
LEVEL 3 STRATEGIES PLUS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outdoor capacity for athletic events, performances, and public meetings reduced • Masks required indoors when responsible distancing is not possible • Outdoor community facilities use paused



District Moves to Level 4 of COVID-19 Management Plan (continued)

a digital format, including live inspiration performances, awards and recognitions, and public participation. Students and staff will still be recognized for their many accomplishments through different formats, and alternate form of public comments is available through written comment at publiccomments@henry.k12.ga.us. Henry County Schools district officials will continue to monitor all health conditions of the county and school community and make any necessary adjustments to school and district operations to ensure the health and safety of everyone.



Strategic Plan Quarterly Report Unveiled

After months of meetings to hear the ideas and visions of the community and employees around a new five-year strategic plan, and after compiling everyone’s voices into the community-inspired plan, the focus now shifts to starting the work of the plan and providing quarterly public reports to the board of education and the public. The August meeting was the first opportunity to provide a detailed look at the report, its structure, and a plan for further communication to highlight all efforts and accomplishments.

Each of the five Strategic Actions contain a collection of initiatives that will be followed closely through a five-stage process of Research, Design, Invest, Implementation, and Completion.

Superintendent Davis was able to navigate the very first quarterly report to highlight some of the initial efforts that have been completed, while also noting that most of the work contained in the plan is currently in the Research & Design phase or the Invest & Implement Phase.

She was also able to show the portion of the report that will highlight efforts toward meeting the Priority Student Outcomes.

“I’m super excited about our community getting to see this quarterly report, especially as it continues to grow and things move from the research and design phase, to investment, implementation, and completion,” said Dist. 4 Board Member Sophe Pope. “It’s amazing to even see on paper after hearing the voices of our community and this come to life.”

“As the community can see, we are working extremely hard on behalf of the students of our community,” said Board Vice-Chair Annette Edwards. “We still have a lot of work to do, but I want to thank everyone who was a part of this.”

Community-Inspired
2021-2026 Strategic Plan
Developed by the Henry County Board of Education

HENRY COUNTY SCHOOLS

QUARTERLY REPORT - INDEX

PHASES OF IMPLEMENTATION

- RESEARCH**
All strategic plan work begins with research to identify best practices and options for how to move the work forward.
- DESIGN**
After researching possible solutions and options, we use what we have learned to identify preferred solutions and design a model for deployment in Henry County Schools.
- INVEST**
Projects identified as being in the “invest” phase are in the process of receiving allocated funding or hiring new staff to support implementation.
- IMPLEMENT**
Once a project is deployed to the district, we identify its status as “implement”. Implementation may start with a pilot (small group impact study) before moving to full implementation across the district.
- COMPLETE**
Once a project has moved through the phases of implementation, we identify it as 100% complete and monitor as necessary.

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES
Strategic Actions contains several big initiatives that identify how we will meet our strategic action goal. The work of these initiatives is staggered and will occur across the 5 years of our Strategic Plan.

IMPLEMENTATION HIGHLIGHTS
Each quarter we will share highlights from our most current work and explain the impact we are having on students, families, schools, & our community.

DESTINATION 2026
Cumulative 5-Year Plan Meter
The Destination 2026 Completion Meter tracks the progress of each strategic action through the phases of implementation across all 5 years of the strategic plan. As we complete each phase of implementation the phase box will read 100%.

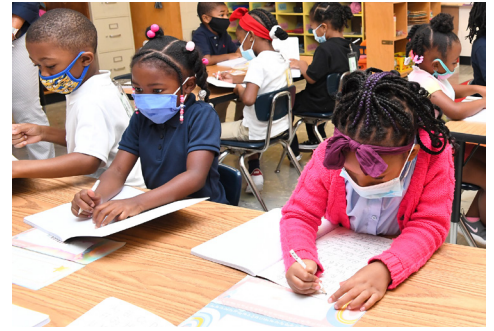
EXPECT *Exceptional*



Creating a Community of Powerful Readers and Writers

Chief Learning & Performance Officer Melissa Morse followed the presentation on the new quarterly report for the five-year strategic plan by talking about one of the initiatives found in the plan pertaining to the creation of a community of powerful readers and writers in all of our schools.

After highlighting the board’s commitment to literacy, reading, and writing skills for every student as found throughout policy and their core beliefs and commitments, Mrs. Morse walked the board through a timeline of district efforts to provide an increased focus on reading starting back in 2018 and continuing through today. These efforts include such actions like hosting summer literacy summits, acquiring essential resources, and early literacy model implementations. Laying the foundation through reading now provides the district to focus on developing strong writers.



Found in Strategic Action 1, Initiative Statement 1 was the push to create a community of powerful readers and writers. Though the strategic plan is for a five-year time period, much of the work begins now. So far, tactics that have been completed in support of this strategic action and initiative are the establishment of a K-12 writing development team, explicit writing professional development, elementary school handwriting resource distribution, and a review of the effectiveness of existing K-12 writing resources.

Mrs. Morse was able to provide the board with a glimpse of the work that will be undertaken this school year to advance the goals of Strategic Action 1, Initiative Statement 1. Some of this work includes professional development, establishing metrics for writing success for continual improvement of instruction, develop and provide resources for articulating the developmental stages of writing for various individuals, and the acquisition of writing resources.

Back to School Update

Chief School Leadership Officer Kirk Shrum was able to provide a report to the board on the successful opening of schools for the start of the 2021-2022 school year.

Readiness was the focus of the start of the report, as Mr. Shrum was able to share the key steps that were taken ahead of the start of school to ensure a smooth start for all families, returning and new. This included a new Welcome Center which saw over 2,000 families and a new Open House Toolkit to cut down on congestion at schools around completing processes that could easily be completed online.





Back to School Update (continued)

Open House returned after the modified start experienced last year eliminated that traditional welcome to school. Both in-person and virtual meetings were made available to accommodate the excitement of meeting school staff members and new teachers.

The first day of school was also featured and included a focus on the return of nearly 44,000 students to an on-campus or virtual classroom. School nutrition, safety and security, technology support, and transportation services were highlighted for the volume that returned for this new school year. Josh Malcom, Chief Operations Officer, provided information to the board around the transportation services start to the year. As is common each year, transportation services can be delayed the first few days and couple of weeks to start the year. These delays come with the increased traffic on the roads, but as the weeks progress, the traffic patterns smooth out and on-time deliveries become the norm.

To round out his report, Mr. Shrum shared several assurances with the board members which include a focus on instruction and connectivity, addressing any learning gaps that may be identified with students, ensuring effective use of instructional time, keeping students engaged, and following all COVID-19 mitigation strategies.

Knowing how much work goes into a successful start to a school year having served on the board of education for more than 20 years, Dist. 1 Board Member Dr. Pam Nutt shared her appreciation for the employees across the district and school community.

"I appreciate anyone in this county who has rolled up their sleeves lately to help make our county and the start to this school year the best," said Nutt.

HCBOE Policy IFB - Henry's Plan for Digital Literacy

Chief Information Officer Dr. Brian Blanton provided the board with a report on HCBOE Policy IFB - Henry's Plan for Digital Literacy, a board-directive and developed policy on digital citizenship and literacy. More specifically, Dr. Blanton shared the governance and regulation of this policy which now includes guidance on the resource selection process, determination of effectiveness and need for digital literacy, and screen time balance. The foundation for this policy started just over two years ago as a part of a Whole Board Training session in which board members engaged in discussions with district leaders around the board's thoughts and ideas around the very items that are now a part of this reform policy up for consideration. The policy presented before the board is now out for public review and comment ahead of next month's meeting. To review the policy, [click here](#).

As Dr. Blanton reminded the board of their commitment and desire to a balance between print and digital resources as well as a screen-time balance, he shared that "it makes sense that we begin with your guidance found in our Strategic Plan and specifically our Priority Student Outcomes where you have committed to advance Opportunities, Access, and Outcomes for every student group in Literacy Proficiency at every grade level and also recognize that Strategic Action 1 of

Financial Reports / General Obligation Bonds

Interim Chief Financial Officer Jeff Allie was able to bring good financial news to the board for the August meeting. His first report to the board featured a closeout of the FY21 books with the conclusion of the month of June 2021. Of particular importance to the board was the news of closing out the year with a \$8.1 million investment in the Fund Balance. This number stands out due to the fact that the FY21 budget was originally approved in August of 2020 with an anticipated need to borrow nearly \$25 million from the district's Fund Balance or savings to balance the budget. Thanks to better than expected revenues from the local tax digest, ad valorem taxes, and state revenues, plus expenditures coming in under projections by just over \$6.5 million, all total, the strong fiscal management of the district resulted in the opportunity to contribute to the security of the Fund Balance as opposed to having to withdraw from it.

Additionally, Mr. Allie was able to update the board on the district's recent selling of general obligation bonds for upcoming E-SPLOST 6 projects. Part of the bond selling process centers on the district's good financial stewardship in the eyes of creditors, and Henry County Schools'



Financial Reports / General Obligation Bonds (continued)

financial management has only strengthened over the years as witnessed by the latest process to sell bonds. We sold the full \$210,000,000 of authorized bonds and had orders totaling \$552 million from more than 140 separate investors. Additionally, we were able to secure an even better interest rate by more than a full point - improving from 2.5% to 1.38% - demonstrating the stable and sound governance of the board of education.

Other Agenda Items

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

- **Annual Renewal of Warrant Repair Services for Student/Staff Devices** – The board unanimously approved this renewal which will provide warranty coverage for student and staff devices for the remainder of our initial five-year device deployment approved by the Board in March of 2017. These services are funded through education SPLOST V funds.
- **Comprehensive American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Application** – The board unanimously approved moving forward with the application to receive the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding from the third Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Funds provided by federal government funds via the Georgia Department of Education.
- **2021-2022 Federal Perkins Application** – The board unanimously approved the annual application to receive the funds necessary to support CTAE through the Federal Perkins Grant. The Perkins Act of 2006 is available to provide federal funds to support local vocational and technical education through our CTAE programming.
- **GaDOE FY23 Capital Outlay Application** – The board unanimously approved the receiving of FY23 Capital Outlay funds after the district’s application was approved by the state. This funding will include \$192,771 for the Addition to Dutchtown High School project (science classrooms) and \$51,726 for the Fairview ES Exterior Modifications project (canopy replacement). Both of these projects are part of E-SPLOST VI and the partial state funding is in relation to our Five-Year Local Facilities Plan approved in 2020.
- **School Nutrition Food Contracts for FY22** – The board unanimously approved the two school nutrition contracts for food and ice cream products for the current school year.

Leadership on the Move

Name	New Position/Location	Former Position/Location
Jason Bothwell	Assistant Principal Ola High School	Assistant Principal Fultondale, AL
Keshia Dixon-Mosley	Assistant Principal EXCEL Academy	Dean of Students Fulton Co. Schools (GA)
Jessica Morgan-Bales	Assistant Principal Ola High School	Assistant Principal Hampton High School
Cedric Peeples	Assistant Principal Austin Road Middle School	Dean of Students Fulton Co. Schools (GA)
Jessica Torres	Assistant Principal Hampton Middle School	Student Support Facilitator Ola High School