



# HCS BOARD OF EDUCATION MONTHLY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

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Vol. 4, No. 5 - November 9, 2020

## Kindness Week and More Celebrations!

## 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.



Kindness Week, officially the second week of November, was started in Henry County and is now recognized across the state of Georgia each year. Efforts across the district are on display, as well as at the district office, with the promotion of this simple act that carries such an importance in our daily lives. With this year's recognition, it was also noted that there would be a Blue Shirt Day in honor of the hard-working staff in the Facilities & Maintenance Department. This particular employee group is known as the 'Blue Shirts' due to the signature uniform they wear. Their impact in our district is felt every day thanks to the support they provide, and their incredible support to prepare our district to safely and responsibly welcome back students and staff to campuses made the difference in our district's operational status. We salute them every day, and we are glad that we get to recognize them with a special day in 2020.



## 2020-21 School Year Update - Return Plan, Health Metrics, Teaching/Learning, and ESE Support

Superintendent Davis, along with members of her Executive Cabinet transitioned this opening portion of the information items section from a Back-to-School Report to a School Year Update to reflect the extensive work that is well underway across the district. It was shared how the board's Unified Governance model, inclusive of the core beliefs and commitments, plan of action, and the emerging strategic plan, has been the guide for the success of the work so far. And central to this model is stakeholder voice and input.

Student learning remains the core business of the school district. Chief School Leadership Officer Kirk Shrum provided a recap of how the districts staggered and gradual return plan was able to be successfully implemented at a time when other school districts aren't faring so well in their attempts to provide options for families. Due to close adherence to all safety protocols and guidelines, our district is able to continue to provide on-campus learning and instruction while

**What's Next**

**19. Commence and Give 2.0 Message:**

**PART II: Transparency and Clarity in Communication**  
 Engaged to move with all faculty and staff

- Dr. Dawn Message
- Engage to move with all faculty and staff
- Transparency can be found here: [https://www.henry.k12.ga.us/2020/11/19/19-Commence-and-Give-2.0-Message/](#)
- Keep Henry Healthy: COVID Safety Protocol Review Video: [https://www.henry.k12.ga.us/2020/11/19/19-Commence-and-Give-2.0-Message/](#)
- View our Slides: [https://www.henry.k12.ga.us/2020/11/19/19-Commence-and-Give-2.0-Message/](#)
- Google Shared Drive: HCS Employees: [https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1K00000000000000000000000000000000](#)
- Facilities and Staff Code Reflection on current practices: [https://www.henry.k12.ga.us/2020/11/19/19-Commence-and-Give-2.0-Message/](#)
- What is going well?
- What areas do we need to revisit?

**PART III: Capturing Teacher Voice**

**20. Guide for Construction** (Source: The State of Georgia Department of Education) (November 2020)

**21. Instructional Model Reflection / Thoughts for 21st Semester**

- What is going well?
- What would help you be more effective?
- Data to Review for current instructional model (include quantitative and qualitative)
- Engagement
- Reflection

**Instructional Model for 21st Semester Adjustments (Input / Brainstorm)**

- For any change in instructional model, include discussion of source model (IEP, ILL, etc.)

**HENRY**



# 2020-21 School Year Update - Return Plan, Health Metrics, Teaching/Learning, and ESE Support (continued)

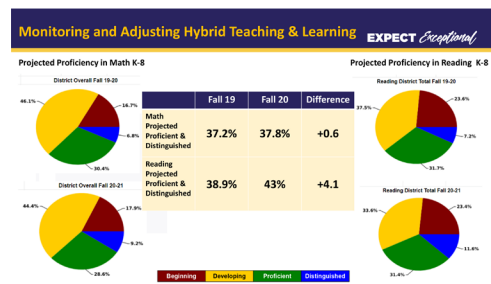
also providing high-quality remote instruction at the same time. The district will remain agile and adaptable with the current conditions across the community, state, and nation. The district's plan is to keep the hybrid-learning model in place through the remainder of the current school year.

In order to keep the option for families to be able to send their children to campuses to learn, health metrics in the community must warrant such. Henry County Schools remains committed to being transparent regarding numbers of COVID-19 cases impacting the district, and Dr. April Madden, Chief Family & Student Support Services Officer provided the latest updates.

Staff and students case numbers are reported weekly on our district website. ([Click here](#)). The incidence rate and number of cases most recently reported remain well below the critical thresholds and far below the spike we saw back in July. Henry County Schools continues to take proactive measures to support our Keep Henry Healthy campaign and keep learning continuing at the highest levels. Recently, the district partnered with Sam's Club and CVS pharmacies to provide flu shot clinics around the district for employees. There has also been a tremendous success with the CARE Teams that support each school. The connectivity, mental health, and social emotional support provided through this team make this team effort essential. The overall purpose of the CARE team is to make certain that every student knows that a caring adult is available to help them in every school.



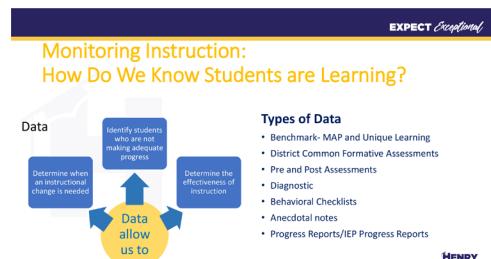
Chief Learning & Performance Officer Melissa Morse provide the board with information regarding current monitoring and adjusting of hybrid teaching and learning in the district. Focused around three themes - student performance monitoring, professional development, and technology enhancements - the board was briefed on how the focus on these three areas is making an impact and providing a high-quality education during the pandemic. Acknowledgments were given to the board's action to delay the start of school and how that allowed for better preparation for a delivery model of teaching that no one had prepared for prior to this school year. It was also noted how common formative assessments are supporting the monitoring of learning. Data show that deep teaching and learning last school year has led to a better-than-projected performance on assessments used to gauge a starting level for students in a new school year.



Purposeful professional development designed around the vocalized needs of teachers and staff has continued to be a strong point for the school district. Three weeks prior to the delayed start to the school year, along with webinars, ongoing support of school-based coaches, and recent professional learning days have been designed to provide teachers with the tools, resources, and general support to facilitate teaching and learning at the highest levels.

To support technology, which has been crucial in sustaining teaching and learning across all levels, schools were give \$2,500 to supplement identified needs for teachers. Whatever the technical need to help teachers work more efficiently and effectively, schools had funds to support the request.

As it pertains to monitoring and adjusting to support Exceptional Student Education, Dr. Madden noted how three themes have driven planning for her division to support these students in our district. Engaging students in accelerated learning opportunities, utilizing community-based instruction and community-based vocational instruction, and providing teachers with training and coaching so they can help students catch up and ensure safe and protected school environments have driven the





# 2020-21 School Year Update – Return Plan, Health Metrics, Teaching/Learning, and ESE Support (continued 2)

planning around supporting this student population. The data garnered from monitoring student progress have helped to address the individual needs of students and better support their acceleration in key instructional and vocational areas.

Board Vice-Chair Holly Cobb (Dist. 3) noted and applauded the continuous improvement that the district is taking seriously.

“We all have had it expressed to us the difficulty of our teachers’ jobs right now,” said Cobb. “I appreciate the information shared about what our principals are doing at each of our schools. Implementing one plan for all of our schools would be challenging, so I am glad they are able to support the specific needs of their schools. I am glad to hear that the concerns of teachers are being considered.”

## E-SPLOST IV Closeout

Chief Financial Officer Christy Willis was able to provide the board with a final report on the closeout of the E-SPLOST IV projects. The E-SPLOST IV Referendum was approved by Henry County voters in the fall of 2011. Notable projects on the list included the construction of Hampton High School, building expansions at Eagle’s Landing High, Stockbridge High, and Eagle’s Landing Middle schools, renovations at buildings across the district, technology and instructional improvements, and transportation purchases. The collection of the one-cent sales tax to support this fourth E-SPLOST began in 2013, and collections concluded at the end of 2018. The most recent purchase of instructional resources accounted for the final funds collected from this five-year collection period. E-SPLOST V, approved by voters in 2016, just had its final project bid approved, and collection of pennies for this current E-SPLOST will run through the end of 2022.



## 2019-2020 Accountability Review

November is the month traditionally reserved to inform the board of student performance as measured through the College and Career Ready Performance Index. This state accountability measure was not utilized to measure last year’s performance after the interruption from COVID-19 and the resulting suspension of Georgia Milestone Assessments.

It was one year ago that an 11-point gain on the CCRPI was celebrated across the school district and county for the remarkable increase realized. And while no state assessments were administered at the conclusion of the 2019-20 school year, Henry County Schools still has data to show that students did make progress in key subject areas.

Mrs. Morse did take time to share with the board metrics that the district does have that align with the CCRPI. Accountability is a core piece to Henry’s Plan of Action, and the board’s system of accountability stipulates that a culture of high performance will be fostered and an accountability system will hold all district divisions, departments, and schools to desired outcomes. Accountability is found in more places than just the CCRPI.

**Readiness** EXPECT *Exceptional*

**Improved Percentage of Students Reading on Grade Level or Above for Two Consecutive Years**  
Derived from Lexile score on MAP Assessment (Winter to Winter Comparison)

	1st Grade Lexile 150+	2nd Grade Lexile 420+	3rd Grade Lexile 520+	4th Grade Lexile 740+	5th Grade Lexile 830+	6th Grade Lexile 925+	7th Grade Lexile 970+	8th Grade Lexile 1010+	9th Grade Lexile 1050+*
2017-18	21.3	27.8	42.4	28.7	34.7	29.6	30.1	37.1	39.2
2018-19	29.8	35.1	54.3	45.8	55.5	47.6	52.5	56.6	52.9
2019-20	35.6	36.9	54.5	46.7	55.7	48.9	52.9	57.9	50.9

\* Not all 9th graders take MAP Winter Admin

In place of the state assessment data, Henry County Schools is using a combination of items that were still measured to provide accountability metrics aligned with the CCRPI components. Measurable areas included:

- Winter EOC Performance (Content Mastery & Progress) – Winter EOC results from 2019 were used as a guide for planning and support of student learning in core content areas.
- Literacy and Advanced Placement Participation/Performance (Readiness) – Improved



## 2019-2020 Accountability Review (continued)

literacy for students reading on or above grade level were examined and show substantial growth from class to class and within each class from year to year. Advanced Placement enrollment numbers declined slightly during the 2019-20 school year when compared to the year before, as did the number of exams taken. But the performance levels did not decline as more students scored a 3 or better on AP exams during the most recent school year when compared to the year before.

- Graduation Rate [Announced on 11/10/20] – Henry County’s latest graduation rate showed a 1.8 percentage point increase compared to the year before.
- Review of Participation/Prioritized Questions (Climate Star Rating) – There was a much higher response rate to the Parent Climate Survey when comparing the 2019-20 school year to the school year before. Results on the student surveys show that student’s perceived expectations remains high and relatively unchanged year-to-year, as is also the belief that a caring adult is readily available to support a student.

A review of the data can be found in the video presentation by Mrs. Morse at the following link: [Click here.](#)

Board Member Sophe Pope (Dist. 4) shared her appreciation for the report given by Mrs. Morse and the levels by which we are holding our district accountable.

“We do prioritize accountability and feel it is extremely important that we are held accountable to students learning at high levels,” said Pope.

## Whole Board Training Session & Strategic Planning

Board Vice-Chair Holly Cobb kicked off the meeting this month by providing a review of the board’s recent training session which focused on their work and further development of the district’s strategic plan. More specifically, Mrs. Cobb was able to share the development of metrics for the plan which will help better facilitate the other crucial components to completing the five-year plan.



Later in the Study Session, Chief of Staff Dr. Carl Knowlton provided an updated timeline for the strategic plan, inclusive of a recap that dated back to October 2019, current activities, and actions to be taken that will take the district all the way to the monitoring of actions and progress. In reviewing the strategic plan’s framework, Dr. Knowlton detailed what each section – Core Beliefs, Priority Student Outcomes, and Strategic Actions – represented.

Dr. Knowlton’s presentation also expanded on Vice-Chair Cobb’s summary of the board’s training session back on October 26. Particular focus was given to defining what opportunities, access, and outcomes means for students in Henry County Schools. Feedback was also shared from a similar exercise conducted with principals and cabinet team members.

Board Member Annette Edwards (Dist. 5), encouraged by the presentation, shared her excitement for the direction this plan will take Henry County Schools.

“I want the public to know that the board has been and continues to be committed to student learning,” said Edwards. “We do care, and we have not stopped working to ensure that all of our students are positively impacted.”

To find out more about the district’s strategic plan, [click here.](#)





## Other Agenda Items

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

- Henry School Heroes Day – The board unanimously approved a proclamation naming Monday, December 14, 2020, as Henry School Heroes Day across the district. In partnership with the Henry County Development Authority, Henry County Chamber of Commerce, and Henry County Board of Commissioners, the board has designated this day, and encourages everyone across the county to celebrate educators in Henry County Schools as heroes for their work during this pandemic.
- Legislative Priorities for 2021 – The board unanimously approved their 2021 Legislative Priorities to present to the Henry County Delegation to the 2021 General Assembly. This list of priorities focused on the four key areas of: Learning Opportunities & Accountability; Family & Community Involvement; Supportive, Safe, & Secure Learning Environments; and Supporting Effective Teachers & Leaders. Under each area is a more detailed list of priorities the board seeks action on from the state legislative delegates.
- 2021 Graduation Ceremonies at AMS – The board unanimously approved an agreement with Atlanta Motor Speedway officials to hold all 2021 graduation ceremonies at the racetrack in Hampton. After the success of the 2020 ceremonies coupled with the unknown conditions or restrictions that may be in place in May, the board of education and speedway officials agreed to start hosting graduations on May 19 and run through May 28.

## Leadership on the Move

Name	New Position/Location	Former Position/Location
Stephanie Lindstrom	Assistant Principal Rock Spring Elementary	Professional Learning Spec. Learning & Performance
Marlon Gilbert	Assistant Principal Flippen Elementary	Teacher Randolph Clay MS - Cuthbert, GA

## Awards and Recognition

ESPY Finalists –



**Annette Alexander**  
– McDonough Middle School



**Premlata Miller**  
– New Hope Elementary  
– Counselor of the Year



**Nathalie Sealock**  
– Union Grove High School



## Awards and Recognition (continued)

Imagine A Day Without Water Art Contest -

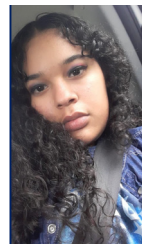
**Aracelys Santana**

- Luella High School 9<sup>th</sup>- 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Division



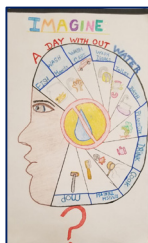
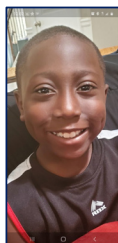
**Alisha Orenge**

- Luella Middle School 6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Division



**Jeremiah Green**

- Dutchtown Elementary 3<sup>rd</sup> -5<sup>th</sup> Grade Division



**Madison Barney**

- Tussahaw Elementary K - 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Division

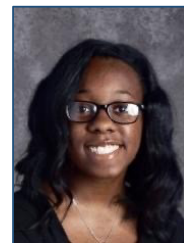


Superintendent Richard Woods' Student Advisory Council

**Jordyn Pruitt** - Dutchtown High School



**Khlanna Gibson** - Stockbridge High School



GSBA Large System - Governance Team of the Year Finalist



Superintendent's 2020-2021 Elected Advisory Leaders

**2020-2021 ELECTED ADVISORY LEADERS** *EXPECT Exceptional*

<b>Henry 2020 SY 2021</b> <b>SUPERINTENDENT'S ELEMENTARY STUDENT ADVISORY</b> Tessa Tutuwan (LGEIS)   President	<b>Henry 2020 SY 2021</b> <b>SUPERINTENDENT'S MIDDLE GRADES STUDENT ADVISORY</b> Hannon Grimwood Moss (Impact Acad)   President	<b>Henry 2020 SY 2021</b> <b>SUPERINTENDENT'S HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT ADVISORY</b> Dr' Ondre Slaton (LHS)   President	<b>Henry 2020 SY 2021</b> <b>SUPERINTENDENT'S ELEMENTARY TOTY ADVISORY</b> Tabitha Wesley (FRES)   Chairperson
<b>Henry 2020 SY 2021</b> <b>SUPERINTENDENT'S CHAIRPERSON ADVISORY</b> Reeshard Scott (FRES)   President	<b>Henry 2020 SY 2021</b> <b>SUPERINTENDENT'S SECONDARY TOTY ADVISORY</b> Melanie Kellam (MMS)   Co-Chair	<b>Henry 2020 SY 2021</b> <b>SUPERINTENDENT'S SECONDARY TOTY ADVISORY</b> James Forgythe (SIS)   Co-Chair	<b>Henry 2020 SY 2021</b> <b>SUPERINTENDENT'S STAFF ADVISORY</b> Jeffrey St. Almee (SI)   President
			<b>Henry 2020 SY 2021</b> <b>SUPERINTENDENT'S ADVISORY</b> Ketha Jones (LHS)   Chairperson

**HENRY COUNTY SCHOOLS**



## Board Member Remarks



**Dr. Pam Nutt**  
District 1

Dr. Nutt started by reflecting on the Thanksgiving lunch she attended at Locust Grove High School and the fellowship with staff. She recognized the Locust Grove High School boys cross country team for their state competition finish. She also congratulated the Locust Grove High School softball team for their run as state champions for the past three years and their finish in 2020. McDonough High School's girls cross country team was applauded for finishing runner-up in the regional competition. Locust Grove Middle School's academic team was celebrated for finishing in 3rd place in the regional competition. Carter Ivey from Locust Grove Middle School was acknowledged for winning the Henry County Water Authority's water tower competition.



**Josh Hinton**  
Board Chair  
District 2

Mr. Hinton acknowledged James Forsythe from Luella High School for being named the HCS Teacher of the Year. Hampton Elementary was celebrated for being a COGNIA Internationally Certified STEM School. Luella High School's volleyball team was applauded for being the runner-up in the region and a Sweet 16 state tournament team. He thanked all employees for their work, and he closed his remarks by wishing everyone a Happy Thanksgiving!



**Holly Cobb**  
Board Vice Chair  
District 3

Mrs. Cobb congratulated Walnut Creek Elementary for their virtual State of the School and Curriculum Night. She noted that Ola High School's softball team finished 2nd in the region and made it to the Sweet 16 in the state tournament, and their volleyball team was the region champs and made it to the Sweet 16 in the state tournament. The Ola High School volleyball coach, Lauren Teknipp was named the region coach of the year. Both the boys and girls cross country teams from Ola High School qualified for the state meet. She shared comments that centered on Kindness Week before wrapping up her remarks by wishing everyone a Happy Thanksgiving!



**Sophe Pope**  
District 4

Mrs. Pope noted Walnut Creek Elementary's media center was the recipient of a \$3,000 literacy grant from Dollar General. Union Grove High School's softball team was applauded for its regional finish and making it to the Sweet 16 of the state tournament. The Union Grove High School boys and girls cross country teams were noted for qualifying for the state tournament and their respective finishes, and the girls were further acknowledged for their county and region championships. She shared remarks around Kindness Week in Henry County Schools. She closed out her remarks by wishing everyone a Happy Thanksgiving!



**Annette Edwards**  
District 5

Mrs. Edwards began by congratulating Supt. Davis for receiving the GSSA President's Award. She also celebrated Jordyn Pruitt and Khlanna Gibson for being named to State School Superintendent Wood's Student Advisory Council. Woodland High School's Jasmine Butler was celebrated for being named regional volleyball player of the year. Stockbridge Middle School was acknowledged for creating a Breast Cancer Awareness video. She closed out her remarks by wishing everyone a Happy Thanksgiving!



**Mary Elizabeth Davis**  
Superintendent

Supt. Davis welcome new team members to leadership positions in the district. She also recognized school psychologists across the district as a part of National School Psychology Week. She shared wishes for everyone to have a Happy Thanksgiving!