



Henry County Schools Press Release

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FY21 Budget Approved by Board of Education

Officials finalize budget after extended process due to COVID-19

HENRY COUNTY, GA – It has been a long road to get there, but the Henry County Board of Education completed one of their essential duties as the governing body of the public school system by passing the FY21 operational budget on Monday, August 24.

The normal five-month budget process the district has been accustomed to over the past few years was set back due to the current pandemic. Board members and district leaders engaged community members in discussions about priorities for the upcoming school year and were on track to have a budget approved in May before schools across the state and nation were forced to close campuses and office buildings.

In the end, the board members voted unanimously to approve the \$373.5 million FY21 budget that will run through June 30, 2021.

“We are definitely glad to be able to complete this long process,” said Board Chair Josh Hinton (District 2). “We aren’t the only ones completing this process at this stage, but I am thankful for our financial services division and the district leaders for their diligence in working to provide a budget that will carry Henry County Schools through this school year while preparing us for the years ahead.”

The final budget numbers show a decrease from the year before. Last year, the board passed the largest budget in school district history, but COVID-19’s statewide economic impact and other state funding source reductions resulted in a \$41 million shortfall for district revenues. Part of this included austerity cuts passed in the state government’s final budget. All school districts across the state experienced at least a 10 percent drop in funding from state revenue sources when the General Assembly completed their budget process.

To help make up some of the difference in lower revenue streams, the district used a combination of savings, stronger local revenues, increased student identification and reporting efforts, and a federal assistance grant to arrive at a budget that will help the district maintain its necessary operational functions. While it did not make up the full reduction in revenue, all efforts were needed and will ensure a strong budget carries the district through the school year.

“Our board’s action to approve an FY20 budget adding \$2.5 million to savings shows their fiscal responsibility for current as well as future years,” said Chief Financial Officer Christy Willis. “In addition, prior to the health pandemic, we were on pace to realize a net favorable budget outcome of two percent which helped the district realize roughly \$8 million in savings. Both savings combined with an essential spending resolution, funding from the federal CARES Act, and use of the fund balance to provide the funds necessary to balance the new budget. These efforts and components helped to mitigate the state revenue declines.”

Henry County Schools
33 N. Zack Hinton Parkway, McDonough, GA 30253

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The board of education was proud to support a budget that featured nods to two of its core beliefs and commitments. The budget approved was student-centered and showed how much officials value district employees.

The newly approved budget includes no furlough days while also honoring all salary scales and applicable steps for years of service accrued. There were also school-level personnel support additions and a maintaining of all school budgets. To make these items possible, district office budgets saw declines and there were hiring freezes on various positions.

A budget breakdown shows that the Henry County Schools budget is annually built on 60 percent of funding coming from the state, 39 percent from local sources, and roughly one percent from the federal government. With the reduction in state funding this year, the local contribution percentages increased to 44 percent with the state contributions making up 55 percent of the final budget. A stronger than expected local economy made a big difference in supporting learning in the county.

“We have a commitment to be good stewards of tax-payer dollars,” said Board Vice-Chair Holly Cobb. “We believe this budget achieves that goal and keeps the focus on our students and teachers so they can continue the great strides that have been made in the classroom in recent years. We are so appreciative of the support we receive from our community.”

For more information on Henry County Schools and the budget, visit

www.henry.k12.ga.us. ###

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