



HCS BOARD OF EDUCATION MONTHLY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

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National Recognitions Abound

Better together.

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Our Mission

Ensuring Success for EACH Student

Our Vision

Building a Culture of Personalized Learning

Our Belief

All Learners will Excel in an Environment Centered on RIGOR, RELEVANCE and RELATIONSHIPS



The month of October is full of recognitions for members of our school community. We get the chance to celebrate our school bus drivers and transportation personnel during Bus Driver Appreciation Day and School Bus Safety Week this month. The job of a bus driver and transportation employee is a foundational part of supporting learning in our schools. Without safe transport to and from school, our students would have a greater challenge preparing to be at their best to learn in the classroom.



It is also Public Safety Appreciation month. We have amazing support from our School Resource Officers and the Henry County Sheriff's Office as well as all emergency responders from across the county. They chose a noble line of work with an unselfish commitment and sacrifice to protect our students, staff, and residents of the county.



And finally, it is National Principals Month. We are privileged to have such outstanding school leaders across our district. Leaders with passions for helping students achieve and flourish at the highest levels. Leaders who have the responsibility of being the instructional catalyst for their staff. We salute our leaders for their work during this special month.



[Click here to view what it means to be a principal in HCS.](#)

Board Policy and Administrative Regulations Review Plan

Each year the Henry County Board of Education must provide a calendar of meeting dates and times for their regularly scheduled public meetings. This requirement falls under HCBOE Policy BCBA. The proposed calendar of meetings follows the current layout of meetings for 2018. Proposed times for the study session and business session remain at 4 p.m. and 7 p.m., respectively.



Policy Review Plan (continued)

The days of the meetings are proposed to stay on the second Monday of each month with an exception to the month of July. The proposed Board Meeting calendar is up for review and comment, [Click here to view the current policy up for review.](#)

Strengthening the Core Business of Student Learning: An Introduction to a Balanced Instructional Model

One district priority that will continue to receive a more in-depth examination and regular updates will be that of strengthening our core business of student learning. It aligns with the first core belief of the BOE in that each student can learn at or above grade level and will have an equal opportunity to do so. Previous discussions of the district priority focused on what teachers teach and what students learn. There were also discussions regarding pace of learning thanks to the development of district pacing guides for teachers, students, and leaders to use. Now the focus shifts to the ‘how’ and the ways our district staff must clarify how we teach and how students learn through a personalized learning model.



One such approach involves the introduction of a balanced instructional model, while a commitment remains to other ‘hows’ like the successful implementation of an early literacy model. A clear expectation had to be set for what instruction would look like inside classrooms. The balanced instructional model provides a common language to foster understanding for our students, parents, and teachers around what the student experience is designed to include.

The balanced approach comes from providing the many stakeholders with core knowledge and skills and the higher levels of analysis, synthesis, application, and problem solving necessary to be a part of daily routines in our classrooms.

This approach helps take students from being memorizers to problem solvers and thinkers. There are many ways of engaging students in deep, personalized instruction while supporting their growth and mastery of content in creative ways.

[Click here to get a better look at the four core content areas’ balanced instructional model basics.](#)

Strengthening the Core Business of Student Learning: Early Literacy Model Update

At the forefront of learning is being able to read, and Henry County Schools is piloting a program in 14 schools in the district aimed at positively impacting this foundational skill for student learning for our youngest students. Through this new model, our kindergarten students cycle through instructional models for phonics before then being assessed on their current progress. This enables school and district leaders to examine where intervention needs to be incorporated to enhance student outcomes. According to Chief Learning & Performance Officer Melissa Morse, this model is a great example of how the district is strengthening student outcomes by our approach to literacy in kindergarten. It also serves as an example of how we systematically monitor the progress of students in real-time to ensure decisions about what students need are made sooner rather than at a time that is far too late to help them improve. [Click here for a video on the district’s new model.](#)





Principal Instructional Model

After teachers, the principal is the most important influence on student success. We have over 50 skilled school leaders with this multi-pronged focus on student success, personnel management, community development, and instructional support. Henry County Schools has placed a heavy emphasis on training and developing its many teachers but also its building leaders. As the Board of Education articulated in its recently developed Core Beliefs and Commitments, they believe that effective teachers and leaders produce excellent results. To help principals be more effective in their schools, the district provides ample resources, such as mentors and regular professional development, to ensure the leaders are at the top of their craft in guiding their students and staff.

Part of the assistance being provided for our principals includes being clearer with the expectations set for them. These expectations include leading the implementation of the Henry Teacher & Learning Standards and Learning Progressions, creating a culture of collaboration, common planning time with purposeful outcomes, creating a culture of common formative assessment, and progress monitoring and data driven adjustment to instruction.

As a result of this purposeful work, principals are visiting classrooms with more frequency to interact with students in an attempt to gauge the impact teachers are having on student learning and understanding. This approach ensures that if there is a student or group of students not in tune with the standard being taught and/or the content overall, adjustments can be made to get everyone on the level they should be on based on the HTLS and learning progressions.

Awards and Recognition for Teachers and Staff

Superintendent's Art Gallery - Over 60 students were recognized for their selection to the Superintendent's Art Gallery. Their artwork was selected from last year and is being recognized and displayed at the District Office during the 2018 and 2019 school year.





Awards and Recognition for Teachers and Staff



Superintendent's Art Gallery Recognition



Superintendent's Art Gallery Recognition

Teachers of the Year – Our special teachers from each school in the district were recognized for their selection as their school's top teacher. They were on hand to be greeted and congratulated by board members and be recognized publically in front of family and friends. The 53 teachers will be recognized more formally (Oct. 25) during the district's Harvest of Heroes.



2018 Elementary Teachers of the Year



2018 Middle School Teachers of the Year



2018 High School Teachers of the Year

Highest Analytic Geometry – Rojini Lazarus, teacher from Dutchtown Middle School was recognized for her class having the highest Analytic Geometry scores on last year's GA Milestones test. Her class bested all other similar classes in Georgia.



GA Milestones Highest Analytic Geometry Scores

BOARD MEMBER REMARKS



Dr. Pam Nutt
District 1

- Dr. Nutt started her remarks by sharing that Bethlehem Elementary has had a productive month with their focus on PBIS and Kindness Month.
- She also shared that Unity Grove Elementary was successful in meeting their Fun Run goals and had a successful grandparents day. They also had a successful tailgate night with the Locust Grove cluster.
- Oakland Elementary was also highlighted for a good turnout for their grandparents day.
- The Locust Grove HS Lady Wildcat softball team was featured for being in the state tournament, as were the Hampton HS Lady Hornets.
- Dr. Nutt concluded her comments by recognizing Tony Pickett who will be retiring this school year.



Josh Hinton
Board Chair
District 2

- Mr. Hinton started by congratulating Dutchtown MS for their 2nd Alzheimer's Walk.
- Luella HS's marching band was recognized for their recent accomplishment at the Valhalla marching competition.
- Hampton HS was recognized for their girls softball team's accomplishments this year, which included making it to the playoffs and winning their region.
- He also recognized Rachel Rose, Mt. Carmel's teacher of the year, for being a district teacher of the year semifinalist.
- Mr. Hinton closed his remarks by thanking principals for their work as a part of National Principals Month and commending Capt. Josh Duke for his recent promotion.



Holly Cobb
Board Vice Chair
District 3

- Mrs. Cobb recognized the principals of the district as a part of this being Principal Appreciation Month.
- She noted that Timber Ridge Elementary had a fantastic talent show and congratulated the teachers and students while also sharing her thanks for the community that supported the school.
- She congratulated the UGHS girls varsity softball team for being in the state tournament.
- She concluded her remarks by congratulating Ola HS for making it to the VEX Robotics State Championships.



Dr. Donna McBride
District 5

- Dr. McBride noted her request to bring cultural diversity to the study session discussion. She said Dr. Davis will bring it up next month.
- She congratulated Hickory Flat Elementary for selling 79 yearbooks and receiving 79 trees that will be planted in their honor.
- She highlighted Pate's Creek Elementary for their Griffin RESA Literacy Day winners.
- Lastly, she congratulated Flippen Elem., Eagle's Landing MS and Eagle's Landing HS for their collaborative curriculum night.



Annette Edwards
District 5

- Mrs. Edwards noted her time at the Stockbridge HS mock interview and its success.
- She also attended the Stockbridge HS/Union Grove HS football game, and congratulated the Tigers on being undefeated.



Mary Elizabeth Davis
Superintendent

- Supt. Davis recognized principals for their role in our schools and communities. She noted her thanks for the supervisors/asst. superintendents for their work in guiding principals.
- There was also attention brought to the work of our district administrators during the "Shadow a Student Day". She stated it was important that we lead through student-centered focus.
- She shared that it is School Bus Safety/Appreciation Week next week and thanked our school transportation department for their work.
- Public Safety Month is this October as well, and Supt. Davis recognized our SROs and Captain Duke for his work and recent promotion.
- She also highlighted our Teachers of the Year for their impact in the classroom. She shared that it was great to be able to recognize them during the meeting.
- She concluded by sharing that the district's thoughts are with the Hickory Flat Elem. community in the passing of a student, and the district's thoughts are also with the Pike County School System and community in the recent loss of a football player.