

MINUTES

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF HENDERSON

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2021

The Henderson County Board of Commissioners met for a Special Called Meeting at 4:30 p.m. in the Commissioners' meeting room of the Historic Courthouse on Main Street in Hendersonville.

Those present were: Chairman William Lapsley, Vice-Chair Rebecca McCall, Commissioner Daniel Andreotta, Commissioner David Hill, County Manager John Mitchell, Assistant County Manager Amy Brantley, Attorney Russ Burrell, and Clerk to the Board Denisa Lauffer.

Absent was: Commissioner Edney

Also present were: Engineer Marcus Jones, Business and Community Development Director Christopher Todd, Budget Analyst Jennifer Miranda, PIO Kathy Finotti videotaping, Captain Tim Griffin, and Lieutenant Larry Pierson as security.

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

Chairman Lapsley called the meeting to order and welcomed all in attendance.

INVOCATION

Commissioner Daniel Andreotta provided the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Lapsley led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

2021.108 RESOLUTION - CONTACT TRACING AND QUARANTINE REQUIREMENTS FOR STUDENTS IN NC PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Each member of the Board read portions of the resolution aloud.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Henderson County community and parents have entrusted to Henderson County government the provision of excellent school-based academic and social outcomes for Henderson County children; and

WHEREAS, the duties of the Board of Commissioners include protecting and providing for the general health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Henderson County; and

WHEREAS, the data and evidence consistently and strongly support in-person learning as the best method for all students to achieve excellent academic outcomes; and

WHEREAS, the data and evidence consistently and strongly demonstrate that students who are engaged in in-person learning have superior social and psychological outcomes over

APPROVED:

those students who are sporadically, suddenly, and repeatedly excluded from school due to quarantine requirements; and

WHEREAS, the data and evidence consistently and strongly demonstrate that students who are sporadically, suddenly, and repeatedly excluded from school due to quarantine requirements have decreased academic performance, increased behavioral issues, and suffer emotional and psychological effects from the isolation and removal from peers; and

WHEREAS, the practice of quarantining children and excluding them from in-person student learning imposes substantial costs on employers, special burdens on parents, and is especially detrimental to single parents, legal guardians, and working parents and guardians; and

WHEREAS, the practice of quarantining school staff and excluding them from in-person instruction and supervision imposes substantial costs and loss of learning due to diminished pools of available substitute teachers, instructional assistants, and building-level administrators; and

WHEREAS, in light of the development and wide-spread availability of other effective measures of disease control for COVID-19, such as vaccinations and other treatments, contact tracing and quarantining have diminished in their utility as a primary and efficient mitigation measure for disease control; and

WHEREAS, the presence of COVID-19 in our State and County is likely to persist well into the future without a known or defined end; and

WHEREAS, the importance and continuation of isolation protocols for symptomatic individuals and those who test positive for COVID-19 or other communicable diseases are essential for the protection of healthy students, teachers, and staff; and

WHEREAS, we support the work and guidance of our Public Health Director and will continue to partner with local public health officials to ensure appropriate responses if the data regarding impacts of COVID-19 on students and staff indicates a need for more intense strategic responses; and

WHEREAS, Henderson County will work with HCPS to seek safely, lawfully, and effectively to end quarantining of healthy, asymptomatic students and staff to minimize the number of missed instructional days to achieve grade promotion.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED in consideration of these and other relevant matters, the Henderson County Board of County Commissioners hereby call upon the State of North Carolina and the Department of Health and Human Services to take whatever actions are necessary to end the practice of contact tracing and quarantining of students

APPROVED:

Chairman Lapsley made the motion to adopt the Resolution as presented. All voted in favor and the motion carried 4-0.

ADJOURN

Chairman Lapsley made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:47 p.m. All voted in favor and the motion carried 4-0.

Attest:

Denisa A. Lauffer, Clerk to the Board

William Lapsley, Chairman

APPROVED: