



## Alpha Lambda News Volume XXV Issue I

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**Next Meeting:  
Saturday, September 19 / 9:30  
Brunch at Johnson Farm**

### DKG Website Links

Alpha Lambda website [link](#)

NC DKG website [link](#)

DKG International website [link](#)

### Greetings from Jill Jackson Alpha Lambda President

Thank you for the opportunity to serve our Alpha Lambda chapter of DKG. As I said at the meeting, I hope I can make it seem as easy as our previous capable presidents. I am looking forward to working with the new executive board and all that is in store for AL this biennium. I also want to say thank you to all the ladies who have accepted a Hostess Chair or Committee chair position.

Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much. -Helen Keller

Twenty-five DKG members met Saturday, July 11 at Jackson park. It was a beautiful summer day and it was very nice being able to visit. The love and care for each other superseded the fact that we could not sit close to each other, could not partake in the usual delicious brunch food and by the new fashion of wearing a mask. Even through these crazy times, AL sisters are moving forward.

Our state president, Teresa Cowan, began our meeting with encouraging and enthusiastic words to be involved with DKG. Becky Kirtley and Annabelle Hurd then led us in a lovely Ceremony of Remembrance. Right after, Laurie Stissel orchestrated an induction of two new members: Haley Staton and Alicia Lyda. We are excited to have them a part of us. We have two more new members waiting in the wing for our September induction.

I wanted to especially thank Marilyn Yoder for leading and encouraging our chapter to excel for over 10 years.

*Join us!*

**Alpha Lambda's Meeting**  
**Dates 2020-2021**

Saturday, September 19, 2020 @  
9:30. Johnson Farm  
(Brunch/Meeting/Initiation/Music)

Saturday, November 21, 2019 @  
9:30 Johnson Farm  
(Brunch/Auction)

Tuesday, January 12, 2021 @  
4:00 Johnson Farm (Meeting)

Tuesday, March 30, 2021 @ 4:00  
West Henderson (Meeting)

Saturday, May 15, 2021 @ 9:30  
Location TBD (Brunch/Initiation of  
New Members)



**Region XI director:**  
**Julia Keyes**

**Convention Dates**

April 23 - 25, 2021 —  
NC DKG Convention, Asheville  
Crowne Plaza and Resort

July 7-10, 2021— International  
Conference, Portland, OR

July 21-24, 2021— International  
Conference, San Antonio, TX

July 28-31, 2021— International  
Conference, Tampere, Finland

July 12-16, 2022 —  
International Convention, New  
Orleans, LA



Newsletter Editor  
Julia Keyes



Website Editor  
Rita Shardell



Chapter Achievement Banner  
Excellence: Marilyn Yoder,  
leading and encouraging our  
chapter to excel for over 10  
years.

Thanks to these  
three ladies for  
representing AL  
with high honors.



**ingles**

We will be making an Ingles  
Card order at our meeting on  
September 19. Bring a  
self-addressed, stamped  
envelope if you want your  
cards mailed to you.

## Treasurer's Report

A big thank you to all our members for paying their dues in a timely manner. International and State dues have both been paid. Also a big thank you to members who had previously paid for the spring luncheon and donated their fee to our Cecil Kessler Recruitment Grant. That amounted to \$600! Our balances are:

Hilda Olson Literacy: \$860.94  
Cecil Kessler Recruitment Grant:  
\$2476.61  
Candy Priest Member  
Scholarships and Grants: \$84.22  
Alpha Lambda Checking  
Account: \$7533.45

My Dear Alpha Lambda sisters,

When I accepted the role of secretary for this term, I thought I would be selling my house to downsize and stay here in Hendersonville where I am "nested". COVID 19 has been the impetus to prioritize what I value most. For me that is family. Many of you know that my son and his lovely partner live in Sweden. That is a bit too far for me. My daughter recently married and she now has a stepson. They live on James Island next to Charleston. I have decided to relocate to be closer to them. I have a contract on my home and should be closing August 31.

At the last meeting, Theresa Cowan, our state president, encouraged us to share what is special about DKG to others. I am happy to share that each of you are what calls me to membership. At times, I sit at a meeting thinking about this amazing group of professional women who have collectively touched the lives of literally thousands of youth in so many varied and important ways. I have been honored to be associated with each of you! **Connie Brown**



Dear Alpha Lambda Sisters,

I have enjoyed sharing in our mission and fellowship these past nine years however after prayer and contemplation I feel led to offer my resignation. This decision will enable me to increase my attention and energy to my family, the drama team in my church and to better serve my students. Thank you for the ways in which you all have helped me grow.

Blessings and love,  
**Laurie Stissel**

## Family and Friends

We were saddened to hear of the passing of Ed Walker, father of Brenda Gorsuch, Paul Stanley, husband of Jan Stanley, and Malvern (Buddy) West, former principal of Etowah Elementary.

## In Remembrance

Our sweet Anne Smith went home to her Lord on Thursday, August 27, 2020. She became a member of DKG in 1960 and served on many committees as well as on the executive board. She was Alpha Lambda's president 1992-1994. We will all remember her sweet smile and her many contributions to the world of education.





## **Governor Cooper**

will announce on Sept. 11 if we will be staying in Phase 2 or moving to Phase 3. Parents' thoughts on the school year and how it should unfold are being collected the first week of September. This information will be used in reference at the School Board meeting on Sept. 8th to aid in future decision making as to what plan to follow in Henderson County. At present, Henderson County Schools are operating on Plan C (the all remote model).

## **New Teacher in our Midst**

We will be having a first year teacher shower at our September meeting for Haley Staton, our Kessler Grant recipient for the last 5 years. Haley is a separate setting EC teacher at Edneyville Elementary School. Suggestions for the shower include Amazon, Walmart, or Visa gift cards, and school supplies.



**Our September meeting** is at Johnson Farm. Please BYO chair in case we decide to meet outside. If the weather is uncooperative and we decide to meet inside, there is the option of meeting online at Google Meet (similar to zoom). This will also be available to anyone that is uncomfortable meeting in person at this time. If you are unsure how to use Google Meet, contact Jill Jackson. Google Meet is accessible with a laptop or a smartphone. We would like everyone to be a part of the meeting.



## International News

Rebecca “Becky” Sadowski of Tennessee has been elected DKG’s 2020-2022 International President. She will serve with Dr. Lace Marie Brogden (Canada) as First Vice President and June Bowers (Nebraska) as Second Vice President. Candace “Candi” Martin of Arkansas will be the Southeast Regional Director. President Sadowski’s theme will continue to be “Leading Women Educators Impacting Education Worldwide.” In her President’s Acceptance Speech, she said her focus is “you—our members.”



**Becky Sadowski**  
**2020- 2022**  
**International President**

## 2020 HCPS Board of Education

### Candidate Q & A

During an ordinary election year, we would invite the HCPS Board of Education candidates to our September meeting in order to allow them to share important information about themselves with our members. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, we decided to send out a questionnaire to all of the candidates so that we could include this special edition insert in our September newsletter for your information.

## ETA State News

President Dr. Teresa H. Cowan, 2019-2021 President of The North Carolina State Organization, has chosen Ready, Set, GROW! as her theme for this biennium. Her goals are centered around the need for growing as NC DKG adapts, changes, and moves forward. This quarter’s message is centered around change as a catalyst for growth.

## Special Announcement

If anyone has a book that they have read and would like to pass it on, bring it to the next meeting and someone else can buy it for \$2 (older books) or \$5 (best sellers) . This will be an ongoing fundraiser that will add to the DKG general fund.

## Ready, Set, GROW!

With President Dr. Teresa H. Cowan  
NC DKG President

### What Did Your “Little Voice” Say to YOU?

Each of us has heard that little voice saying, “you can do (fill in the blank).” But are we listening? Are we cultivating our own potential by finding the right environment for generating growth? Following our inner voice can be the first step toward real change! Change fosters growth.



NC DKG chapters are experiencing change as they begin a new biennium. Chapter changes can pave the way for chapter growth. But remember—change can be difficult and growth is often a challenge.

Here are **Five A’s** to ensure change fosters growth at the chapter level. The Five A’s are driven by member engagement.

Members should:

1. Acknowledge what drives change
2. Agree with plans for change
3. Accept their roles in change
4. Act collaboratively to generate change
5. Assume positive results of change



I used this quote recently: “It’s not about perfect. It’s about effort. And when you bring that effort every single day, that’s where transformation happens. That’s how change occurs.” - Jillian Michaels

Question to ponder through this time of change: Where are you placing your efforts in the upcoming biennium? How will you transform your membership to aid chapter growth?

**NAME:** Stacey Caskey

**Email:** scaskey@biltmoretutoring.com

**BACKGROUND:**

My name is Stacey Caskey and I'm running for a seat on the Henderson County Board of Education. I'm a National Board Certified Teacher with three Master's degrees and certifications in education. I have been in education as a tutor and college counselor for nearly three decades. Along with my husband, Brian, I own Biltmore Tutoring, employing fourteen tutors and working with hundreds of area students each year. I've been chosen Teacher of the Year twice, in two different school systems, and was selected from 75,000 NYC teachers to "open the school year" in 1997.

**1. WHY DID YOU DECIDE TO RUN?**

I believe that I bring a unique perspective to the Henderson County School Board, as I have experience in grant writing, selecting, and writing curriculum for grades kindergarten through eight in North Carolina. While our high school grades are represented on the board, we don't have anyone with early childhood expertise. I'm a strong advocate for countywide pre-kindergarten and will work diligently to see Henderson County set the standard for education in North Carolina.

**2. IF ELECTED, WHAT PERSONAL STRENGTHS WOULD YOU BRING TO THE HCPS SCHOOL BOARD?**

Having been a teacher in elementary school classrooms for so many years, I think I have the compassion, but also insight necessary to understand all aspects of what a school day should look like from the perspective of our children and educators. I am a problem-solver and have always put 100% into any project presented to me. As a parent of a senior at West Henderson High School, I am able to see educational issues from all sides.

**3. OTHER THAN COVID-19, WHAT TOP THREE (3) CONCERNS DO YOU BELIEVE NEED TO BE ADDRESSED FOR THE FUTURE OF HCPS?**

- Pre-kindergarten: I truly believe the greatest challenge and the one hurdle we have yet to leap is providing pre-kindergarten for all of our students. Research has proven that students who have access to early literacy programs outperform their peers by grade three, but we have yet to prioritize this in Henderson County. We owe it to our students to raise the bar and bring North Carolina to the front of the pack in education.
- Safety: After the Parkland school shooting, I think our school safety team did a solid job reevaluating the needs of each of our schools in the county. They added resource officers, made structural and procedural changes at the front entrances, and created multiple ways of reporting any possible threats to our children. I would like to see our schools follow the Safe School Initiative created after the tragedy in Columbine. In this

- report, the U.S. Secret Service talks about the dangers of “lockdown” drills, describing a far safer way to get the children out of the building quickly and out of harm’s way. If anyone has ever participated in a school code red drill, they will understand why we need to reconsider how we handle lockdowns and credible threats. They are terrifying to our students and also do not take into account the problems a simulated drill causes our children with special needs.
- Not every child is college bound. The amount of standardized testing creates an environment that assumes everyone is on the same track. I think we need to invest more into our career-oriented students and provide a far more robust vocational path that includes teaching students how to apply for jobs, interview for jobs, and train them for skills needed in our ever changing marketplace.

#### **4. WHAT DO YOU BELIEVE TO BE THE MOST IMPORTANT QUALITIES OF A SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER?**

I believe a school board member must be empathetic and prepared to answer the needs of all stakeholders in the community. This includes the students, parents, teachers, and also residents without children. I feel that a school board member should be intelligent and open-minded, flexible when situations arise, offering solutions instead of complaints when the unexpected occurs. As a teacher, I can tell you that things don’t always go as planned when you are talking about over 13,000 children and almost 2,000 teachers and staff members. I feel that a school board member should have a good understanding of the logistics of how a school is actually run, realizing that you are a steward of the taxpayer’s money. This means that all financial decisions need to be well researched with a plan for sustainability of those expenditures.

#### **5. WHAT DO YOU BELIEVE TO BE THE TOP THREE (3) POSITIVES IN THE HCPS SYSTEM?**

- HCPS is blessed with teachers and administrators who give their all to the children each day. Outside issues, like lack of proper school funding, never stops our educational professionals from doing an amazing job, always putting the children first.
- Our students are outstanding. They amaze us with their intellectual curiosity and motivation to succeed.
- Our Superintendents (Mr. Caldwell, Dr. Bryant, and Dr. King) are superb. They embody leadership and love for their students and staff.



**NAME:** Walter Doughty

**Email:** wdoughtyjr@aol.com

**BACKGROUND:**

I have worked in public education operations across five states over 30 years, 25 years in an administrative capacity. I'm married to the best partner in life with whom I have shared the past 12 years. I have two grown daughters; one a school teacher in Lancaster County, SC, one a child care specialist in New Jersey.

**1. WHY DID YOU DECIDE TO RUN?**

After serving students and families with my fellow team members for over 30 years, I decided to move to WNC to complete the next chapter of life. With all my experience, success in education operations; pupil transportation and child nutrition, and the honor of being published by the Illinois Association of School Business Officials and School Bus Fleet, I felt it was my responsibility to give back to my community and the students served. They are not only our future today but, our tomorrows too.

**2. IF ELECTED, WHAT PERSONAL STRENGTHS WOULD YOU BRING TO THE HCPS SCHOOL BOARD?**

My strengths afforded to the HCPS School Board would be: a. Organizational skills, b. Broad listening and analytical skills, c. understanding the whole picture and not focus on a specific task, d. render decisions based on the overall good of the school district knowing the answer is not always the best for all.

**3. OTHER THAN COVID-19, WHAT TOP THREE (3) CONCERNS DO YOU BELIEVE NEED TO BE ADDRESSED FOR THE FUTURE OF HCPS?**

I believe Covid-19 has brought us a challenge that public education has forever been seeking in growth moving forward, a new out of the box thinking to meet and exceed our daily expected responsibilities in creating lifelong learners. In that vein, I believe we need to:

- A. Individually and collectively gain an appreciation for humanity, accepting everyone as they are and for who they are.
- B. Meet student and household needs essential to create a foundation for learning. Student growth not only depends on what is gained in the classroom but, increased by adequate nutrition, supported by learning enrichment outside the classroom, and encompassed by the community.
- C. Explore out of the box teaching and creative learning techniques to gain success in student learning and corporate recording documentation to show growth never stops learning.

#### **4. WHAT DO YOU BELIEVE TO BE THE MOST IMPORTANT QUALITIES OF A SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER?**

The most important qualities of a school board member is my campaign, the A,B,C's and 1,2,3's:

- A. Achieve
  - 1. Student Success
  - 2. Staffing Success
  - 3. School District Success
- B. Build
  - 1. Student/Staff Relationships
  - 2. Staff/Administrative Relationships
  - 3. School District Relationships to support all students, staff, and administration.
- C. Commit
  - 1. Student growth
  - 2. Staff professional growth venues
  - 3. School District support to the mission

#### **5. WHAT DO YOU BELIEVE TO BE THE TOP THREE (3) POSITIVES IN THE HCPS SYSTEM?**

- A. Offering students the best avenue for learning.
- B. Supportive staffing who believe in the growth of the whole child.
- C. Administrative leadership who works to build and improve the overall learning environments for our students.

**Name:** Robert Bridges

**Email:** [robertnormabridges@yahoo.com](mailto:robertnormabridges@yahoo.com)

**Background:**

Robert M. Bridges, Candidate for Henderson County School Board, 2020

Resident of Henderson County 50 years

Education: B.S. in Elementary Education, M.A. in Guidance & Counseling, and Education Specialist Degree all from Western Carolina University

Family: Married to Norma Bridges 52 years, son, Michael and his wife, Beth, granddaughters, Bella and Gabby

Experience:

- Teacher at Dana Elementary, 1968-1971
- Vocational Rehab Counselor with Transylvania County Schools, 1971-197
- Teacher of Gifted & Talented at Rugby Junior High, 1974-1976
- Guidance Counselor at Flat Rock Junior High, 1976-1978
- Assistant Principal at Flat Rock Jr. High, 1978-1984
- High School Guidance Counselor at East Henderson High School, 1984-1998
- Retirement from Henderson County Schools-30 years, beginning in 1998

Following retirement:

- Construction-electrical and carpenter work
- Hardware Sales with Louis Williams

Community:

- Served as a volunteer at Elizabeth House, Four Seasons Hospice, 8 years
- Member of First Baptist Church, serving as a Deacon and on various committees
- Personal contact with those homebound, in hospitals, and nursing facilities



### **1. Why did you decide to run for HCPS School Board?**

My decision to run for HCPS School Board is based on the fact that Henderson County Public Schools afforded me the opportunity to serve in various positions--from teacher, counselor, and administrator throughout 30+ years of service. I care about this community, and am at the point in my life where I can give the time to this important board and work for the future leaders of our community. My goal is to give back, using whatever knowledge and expertise I may have gleaned over the years for the benefit of our school-age students.

### **2. If elected, what personal strengths would you bring to the HCPS School Board?**

As a former educator, with experiences both in and out of the classroom, I'm aware of all that goes into dealing with students, transportation, and personnel. I'm familiar with the entire educational process from the primary grades through college, which has given me insight to develop a school environment applicable to all students.

### **3. Other than COVID-19, what top three (3) concerns do you believe need to be addressed for the future of HCPS?**

The health and safety of our students and staff is and should always be the top concern to be addressed by our HCPS on an on-going basis. Our administration and school board should be pursuing top- notch educational goals for all career paths, whether that is academic, vocational, or technical. We should continue working with all entities to see that internet access is available for all students needing to work from home. Increased financial support from the State and Local entities is also a must in providing for and retaining those "gifted" educators we seek for the students in Henderson County.

### **4. What do you believe to be the most important qualities of a School Board Member?**

A School Board Member should be focused on providing the best educational experiences for students and staff within the system. He/she should possess outstanding leadership skills by being an engaged listener, able to discuss and disagree without being disagreeable, and a vision to provide a positive learning environment.

### **5. What do you believe to be the top three (3) positives for the HCPS System?**

A positive element of our school system is the overall leadership from the Central Office down to the staff at each school site. The communication between the Central Office, schools, and parents is an integral part of the success we have seen. Their vision is important by providing the best and up-to-date tools for our students' success.

# ERVIN W. BAZZLE

## Background:

I was born on September 10, 1948, and was raised on a farm with my parents, two sisters and a brother in Colleton County, South Carolina. I graduated from Walterboro High School in 1966 and attended Clemson University for one year before being appointed to the United States Military Academy at West Point in 1967.

I graduated from West Point in 1971 with a Bachelor of Science degree in engineering and entered active duty in the US Army. I served as an officer in the Field Artillery Corps until being selected to attend the University of South Carolina School of Law in 1973. I remained in the US Army while attending Law School and graduated from the University of South Carolina School of Law in 1976. I returned to active duty as a lawyer in the US Army and served on active duty until 1982. Upon leaving active duty, I remained in the US Army Reserves until 1991 when I retired as a Lieutenant Colonel.

My wife, Caroline and I met when I was in Law School and were married in 1975. We have two sons, Christopher aged 39, and Jordan aged 29 both graduated from Hendersonville High School. Chris, who graduated from DePaul Law School, and his wife, Becca, live in Charlotte where he serves as a Magistrate for Mecklenburg County. Jordan and his fiancée, Cristin, live in Arden, NC, and have a daughter, Evelyn Grace who is 18 months old.

I am a member of the North Carolina and South Carolina Bars, and have practiced law since 1976. I have practiced law in Henderson County since our family moved here in 1983 and presently work at the Bazzle Law Firm, P.A.

I previously served on the Henderson County Board of Public Education from 1996 -2016. I am presently a member of the Hendersonville Rotary Club, a member of the Henderson County Partnership for Economic Development and on the Board of Directors of Friends of the Ecusta Trail.

In the past, I have served on the Board of Directors of Park Ridge Hospital, Board of Directors of Committee of 100 and Henderson County Partnership for Economic Development, Board of Directors of the Greater Hendersonville Chamber of Commerce, Board of Directors of Boys and Girls Club, Board of Directors of The Henderson County Dispute Settlement Center, Board of Directors and two-time President of the Henderson County YMCA, Coach in Henderson County Youth Baseball, Basketball and Football Leagues, Board of Directors of the Henderson County Arts Council, Board of Directors of the Henderson County Department of Social Services, Chairman of the Henderson County Youth Services Advisory Task Force, and President of the Henderson County Bar Association.

### **Why did I decide to run for a seat on the Henderson County Board of Public Education?**

I believe the education of all children is one of the most important missions we have as parents and as a community. I decided to run for the school board because I have a strong desire to serve in the educational field. Even before COVID-19 impacted our lives and schools, I believed that I could join the returning members of the School Board and help to accomplish that mission.

### **If elected, what personal strengths would I bring to the Henderson County Board of Public Education?**

- I offer proven leadership ability with over 30 years of service to the students, parents, teachers and citizens of Henderson County in both the public and private sectors, and have a broad spectrum of knowledge about the business and industrial components of our community
- I am willing to engage all members of the community and governmental officials in determining and advancing the educational goals of our community, and the best way to obtain those goals.
- I have the patience to listen to all sides and am not afraid to work tirelessly, and in a persistent manner, to accomplish our educational goals.

### **Other than COVID-19, what top three (3) concerns do you believe need to be addressed for the future of HCPS?**

- How to meet the health, welfare and economic needs of our teachers, staff and our support staff (lunchroom, child care, custodians, bus garage and drivers). How to meet the growing needs of our students both in regular academic settings, academy settings, or early college settings and involve parents in the process.
- How to adapt and change our educational models in order to be able to compete with private educational models and strengthen our local and regional industrial and business workforce base.



### **What do you believe to be the most important qualities of a school board member?**

- The willingness to listen and engage everyone in discussions about the education of our children. Everyone has a right to be heard for their opinions matter.
- The ability to approach each issue with an open mind, and be willing to admit that your initial thought may not be correct.
- The ability to be patient when discussing issues with parents, teachers, fellow board members, county officials and the general public, whether that discussion is in private or in a public forum.
- The ability to maintain your integrity by being truthful in all you say and in all your actions. Your actions must inspire trust and reliance in others.
- The willingness to make a decision when it is needed, support that decision with actions and be willing to live with the consequences.

### **What do I believe are the top three positives in the HCPS system?**

- The quality and expertise of the teachers at all levels.
- The quality and experience of the members of our Administration most of whom have spent their career in Henderson County providing guidance to our students.
- The support of our community through local government, businesses, industry and non-profits. Education is a priority in Henderson County,

Name: Thomas “Blair” Craven  
Email: blaircraven44@gmail.com

Background: HCPS Alumni; East Carolina University 1997-2003 B.S. Communications, B.S. Finance; Merrill Lynch Financial Advisor; HCPS Board member 2016-present, Chair 19-20; Married, father of 3 HCPS students.

1. Four years ago I decided to run for election because I believe education and educators are two of the single greatest influences on a child’s life. The same hold true for my re-election campaign.
2. I am a leader who listens. As a financial advisor, I have unique skillset that allows me to understand the fiscal responsibilities that a board member must possess. I am the first African-American to serve as Chairman of the Board, which gives me a diverse view of education.
3. The first concern that I have is the safety of our physical school buildings. We have made great strides in improving our safety infrastructure, but there is much more to go. My next priority is closing the education and achievement gaps that our socio-economically disadvantaged students face. Lastly, I believe that supporting educators, staff, students and parents is a must.
4. I believe the ability to listen is the most important quality a board member should possess. Board members are elected to make decisions, but only after thoughtful listening.
5. We have, in my opinion, the strongest faculty and staff base of any school system in this state and possibly even the nation. We are blessed to live in such an amazingly giving community in Henderson County. Without that community support, we would not be the school system that we are today. And last but certainly not least, the children of HCPS are amazing. They are the most positive aspect of our community and the school system.

**NAME:** Dr. Kathy G. Revis  
**Email:** kgrevis3@gmail.com

**BACKGROUND:**

I have been an educator for 41 years! I began my educational career as a high school math teacher, then commenced my school administrative career as a high school assistant principal, then an elementary principal and, lastly, a high school principal. I served as Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction in Henderson County Public Schools for over 17 years and retired three years ago after completing over 37 years of K-12 public education service. During the past 9 years, I have also been an Adjunct Professor in the School of Education at Gardner-Webb University, where I continue to teach in the Master's in Executive Leadership Program, which is a K-12 graduate and licensure program for school administrators. Upon retirement from the school system, I also spent 2 years working in early childhood education with our local WCCA Head Start/ NC PreK program. I currently serve as a Trustee for Blue Ridge Community College.

I have earned a bachelor's and master's degree in Secondary Math Education and a doctorate degree in Educational Leadership.

**1. WHY DID YOU DECIDE TO RUN?**

Being a retired K-12 educator, I believe strongly in public education and feel I have much to contribute as a School Board member. I would be honored to serve in this capacity.

**2. IF ELECTED, WHAT PERSONAL STRENGTHS WOULD YOU BRING TO THE HCPS SCHOOL BOARD?**

Having educational experience from pre-K through graduate school gives me the ability to contribute from a broad perspective as a school board member. I seek to understand issues from a variety of perspectives, while keeping the best interest of students at the forefront. I am collaborative throughout the decision-making process but am also not afraid to make decisions after carefully weighing all the information. Finally, I have 3 grandchildren who are students in the school system, which makes me keenly interested in the continued quality of education for the children and families we serve.



**3. OTHER THAN COVID-19, WHAT TOP THREE (3) CONCERNS DO YOU BELIEVE NEED TO BE ADDRESSED FOR THE FUTURE OF HCPS?**

1. Access to high quality early childhood education
2. Equity gaps among diverse student populations
3. High quality teacher retention and recruitment given the current climate and demands on public educators.

**4. WHAT DO YOU BELIEVE TO BE THE MOST IMPORTANT QUALITIES OF A SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER?**

First of all, I think being accessible and a good listener are key qualities of a Board member. Being able to examine situations objectively and from a broad perspective are also important qualities. Lastly, it is important to work together with other Board members and district leaders to find solutions and make policies that are in the best interest of the students and families we serve.

**5. WHAT DO YOU BELIEVE TO BE THE TOP THREE (3) POSITIVES IN THE HCPS SYSTEM?**

1. Effective school leaders, teachers and staff
2. Strong parent and community support
3. Collaborative relationships and partnerships with other community leaders, organizations, and businesses

NAME: Michael Absher

Email: [mabsher89@gmail.com](mailto:mabsher89@gmail.com) or [mabsher@hcpsnc.org](mailto:mabsher@hcpsnc.org)

**BACKGROUND:** Michael was born and raised in Hendersonville, NC. Michael is a 2009 graduate of East Henderson High School. Since graduating, Michael has attended Blue Ridge Community College in pursuit of multiple degrees. Michael is an active member of First Baptist Church of Hendersonville. Michael has been employed by the Edwards Group, at McDonald's of Hendersonville, Wells Fargo, property manager of a local apartment complex, and a Bus Driver for Henderson County Public Schools. While not working, Michael serves on numerous boards and committees. He is a leader on the Blue Ridge Community Health School Advisory Board, The Homeless Collation of Henderson County, and Henderson County Relay for Life, and Henderson County's Library Board of Trustees. Michael has also ran for a seat on the Henderson County School Board 3 times, won back in 2016 and currently on the board. He has also been a person of the week, Wells Fargo Volunteer of the year in 2014, and Fortune 500 Hero.

**1. WHY DID YOU DECIDE TO RUN?** I decided to run for re-election because I feel I still bring a different perspective to the board, especially since daily I work to serve the underprivileged of the county.

**2. IF ELECTED, WHAT PERSONAL STRENGTHS WOULD YOU BRING TO THE HCPS SCHOOL BOARD?**

Persistent, Caring, Transparent

**3. OTHER THAN COVID-19, WHAT TOP THREE (3) CONCERNS DO YOU BELIEVE NEED TO BE ADDRESSED FOR THE FUTURE OF HCPS?**

Safety and Construction Improvements, Expanding Social Workers and Nurses, Being a Transparent School System

**4. WHAT DO YOU BELIEVE TO BE THE MOST IMPORTANT QUALITIES OF A SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER?**

There are several qualities that I think that are important. I think as a board member you need to be active and try to participate in as many school events and be present in the schools, also transparency is important as well and be easily reached by the community.

**5. WHAT DO YOU BELIEVE TO BE THE TOP THREE (3) POSITIVES IN THE HCPS SYSTEM?**

Positive Graduation Rate

Great and Caring Staff

The Job Ready Focus