



11/9/2021

# Halifax County Schools

Press Release: Board Meeting Highlights



Dr. Eric Cunningham  
SUPERINTENDENT



**PRESS RELEASE**  
**Halifax County, NC – November 9, 2021**  
*Board Meeting Highlights*

**Employee of the Month- (Human Resource Development and Management)**



Ms. Pauline Bridgers is being recognized as Employee of The Month for October 2021. Ms. Pauline Bridgers works in the Child Nutrition Department at Aurelian Spring Institute of Global Learning. Ms. Bridgers is responsible for preparing hot/cold meals, serving lunches, managing food stations, sanitizing the dining area and workstations, washing and storing equipment, and helping with inventory as part of a team to help the cafeteria run smoothly. Ms. Nina Hines states that "Ms. Bridgers deserves this recognition because she has been dedicated in her role as an Aurelian Springs Hornet Café employee. This year we are short-staffed, and Pauline has worked tirelessly to ensure our cafeteria serves all our students and staff efficiently. She has an amazing work ethic. Ms. Bridgers works continuously from the time she clocks in until she clocks out. Pauline gives 100% even on days I can tell she doesn't feel her best. Ms. Bridgers never complains about having to do extra work.

She is knowledgeable of food safety and helps make sure our cafeteria is in compliance. This cafeteria would not be complete without her energy. She's a jewel in Halifax County!" Dr. Cunningham states, "Congratulations to Ms. Bridgers for being selected as employee of the month for the district. We are so thankful to have Ms. Bridgers as a part of our team, and we appreciate all that you do for our scholars! Ms. Bridgers states that "It is an honor to be chosen as employee of the month for the district. I want to thank Mr. Jones, Ms. Hines, and the whole Aurelian Springs staff".

**Student of the Month- (Student Achievement)**



Scholar Ravyn Silver is Halifax County School District Student of The Month. Ravyn Silver is a 10th-grade student at Halifax County Early College. Ms. Janette Harvey states that "Ravyn comes to school regularly and is focused on academic proficiency. Rayvn's academic achievement is impressive, and I am pleased to see her unwavering focus on her grades and what it takes to maintain those grades. Not only does Ravyn demonstrate stellar academic performance, but she also comes to school with a positive attitude and is willing to assist students, faculty, and staff. Ravyn is a leader and is instrumental in wanting the school to look good. She has many ideas for creating bulletin boards for our walls and ideas for many of our school events". Superintendent Dr. Cunningham states, "I am so proud of Ravyn for striving for five! Continue to keep up the great work!" Ravyn states "I am excited to be Student of the Month. Thank you to my teachers

and peers at Halifax County Early College."



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**Certificate of Appreciation- (Governance and Leadership Development)**



Halifax County Schools presented Mr. James Mills with a Certificate of Appreciation. Mr. Mills, Halifax County School Board Member and President of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference connected Dr. Cunningham with the opportunity to receive PPE Supplies from the Lutheran Disaster Services of the Carolinas. Through this partnership, Halifax County Schools received 15,000 masks, 6500 hand sanitizers, and 169 dispensers to be distributed across our district. Superintendent Dr. Cunningham states, "We are thankful to have Mr. Mills as part of the Halifax County Board of Education." Mr. James Mills says, "It is a pleasure to be able to help and do what I pledge to do as President of the SCLC. We make affirmations with people around the county. We help them, and they help us. We are in a pandemic, and this is what we should be doing. As a school board member, I am pleased to provide items that parents do not have to go get and the opportunity to make the community safer".

**Mask Mandate- (Health and Wellness)**

On November 8, 2021, the Halifax County School Board of Education approved a vote of 7-0 on the superintendent's recommendation for masks to be worn inside all Halifax County Schools buildings. Please adhere to the guidelines because safety is our number one priority. The Halifax County Board of Education will vote monthly on the mask mandate. The next board meeting will be held on December 6, 2021.

**Calendar Change (Communications and Messaging)**

On November 8, 2021, the Halifax County School Board of Education approved the revised schedule for the 2021-2022 school year. Due to Senate Bill 654, all remote days have been changed to early release days for students and PLC days for staff. Halifax County Schools will be closed on November 11, 2021, in observance of Veterans Day. November 12, 2021, will be an optional teacher workday, and schools will be closed for students.

**Massage Chairs & Chill Out Rooms (Health and Wellness)**

Halifax County Schools is a whole child district. We believe that healthy students learn better. To address our students' social, emotional, and mental health needs, HCS partnered with Cardinal Innovation on the development of chill-out rooms. The chill-out rooms will serve multiple purposes, including sensory needs, mental health therapy services for students, and therapeutic staff space.



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**NC Business Committee for Education (Student Achievement)**

The North Carolina Business Committee for Education visited Northwest Collegiate and Technical Academy and Halifax County Early College to interview students and administrators involved in the IT Help Desk and Lighthouse Solar program. This was an excellent opportunity for our students to highlight two great programs started here in Halifax County and an opportunity for our scholars to work on their public speaking skills.

**Lighthouse Athletics- (Student Achievement)**

Enfield Middle STEAM Academy finished the regular season 6-1. They will play in the Championship game this Wednesday, 6 pm at Southeast Collegiate Prep Academy against Chaloner. Northwest Collegiate and Technical Academy played last Friday in the first-round playoff game. We want to congratulate our student-athletes at Northwest Collegiate and Technical Academy for their efforts this season! Southeast Collegiate Prep Academy won their 1st round playoff game against Weldon City High School. Southeast Collegiate Prep Academy will play this Friday at Tarboro High School, 7 pm.

**Finance Audit- (Fiscal management and Resource Development)**

Halifax County Schools' Finance department had an audit for the 2020-2021 fiscal school year. Andy Deal, an auditor with Anderson Smith & Wike PLLC, attended the Halifax County Board of Education meeting to brief the report. Andy Deal's findings were that Halifax County Schools had an increase in fund balance. Furthermore, Halifax County School's financial report displayed good standings for the district and showed economic improvement. There was one finding reported for the 2020-2021 fiscal year compared to last year, where there were three findings for the 2019-2020 fiscal school year, and all results have been corrected. Dr. Cunningham states, "I am proud of our finance department for all their hard work." Chief Finance Officer, Ms. Shanice Sanders, says, "This year's audit went through with ease as we had a wonderful team working to produce the items the auditors requested. The finance team was determined to close FY21 with a better handle on things than the year before, which is exactly what we did. I am proud to say that our team closed the year exceedingly better and is looking forward to an even better year next year. Incremental and consistent growth will continue to be our goal."