

**9:00 a.m. PUBLIC HEARING**

Sign-up Sheet

**To consider closing a portion of Cloverdale Drive (SR 1530)**

**May 18, 2016**

Please Print

Name:

Address:

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| 1.  | <i>PETE SZELWACH</i> | <i>125 INDUSTRIAL PARK RD HVL, NC 28792</i> |
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May 18, 2016 @ 9:00 a.m.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

Sign-up Sheet

Public Hearing for FY16-17 Budget

Please Print

| Name:                 | Address:                          |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| ✓1. Sharon Burlingame | 401 Regal St. 28792               |
| ✓2. Linda Miller      | 62 South Lakewood Circle 28739    |
| ✓3. Rachel Polker     | 12 Rugby Knoll Pr. 28791          |
| ✓4. Thomas Hill       | 2700 Mt Olivet Rd, Zirconia 28790 |
| ✓5. Harold Nellickson | 681 River Road - 28739            |
| ✓6. DIANA JOHNSTON    | 11115 PINNACLE MOUNTAIN RD. 28739 |
| ✓7. CHRISTIAN CANNON  |                                   |
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Handout  
Sharon Burlingame

**May 18, 2016**  
**Four Quality Public Education Positions on Technology**  
**taken by the Henderson County League of Women Voters**  
**based on its 2015-2016**  
**15-month Study: *Defining Components of a Quality Public Education***

“...thorough and sound study. I applaud and thank the Henderson County League for their outstanding public education study and encourage them to join other North Carolina Leagues to make every person in our state and beyond aware of the needs in our public schools, the cornerstone of our Democracy.”

-Willie Taylor, co-president LWV North Carolina

**The League of Women Voters of Henderson County supports the request of the HC Board of Education for funds to improve technology education in Henderson County Schools.**

Our HC League members were in 100% agreement that these 4 positions on technology below should be included in a quality public education. As part of the study, our League also conducted a survey of 500 community members. The League wanted our survey sample to accurately reflect the sense of the community. In order to have a statistically significant survey sample size since there are approximately 80,000 residents in Henderson County over the age of 18, our target population would need to have approximately 400 survey responses. We had over 500 responses. Therefore, the results of our survey are valid with a 95% confidence level.

| <b>Community Survey Results</b>  | <b>Positions On Technology of the League Of Women Voters Of Henderson County</b>  | <b>LWVHC Rational for Including Positions in the Study</b>   |
|--|---|--|
| <b>In Favor</b><br>75%<br><b>No Opinion</b><br>11%<br><b>Not in favor</b><br>14% | 1. In a quality public education, each student is provided a digital device.  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Future jobs for students will depend on technology.</b></li> <li>• <b>This is an equality issue. Most middle class students have digital devices, but many students in low-income families do not.</b></li> <li>• <b>If a teacher is teaching a lesson that can be made more effective using a digital device, then all students should have access to one.</b></li> </ul> |
| <b>In Favor</b><br>75%<br><b>No Opinion</b><br>11%<br><b>Not in favor</b><br>14% | 2. In a quality public education, teachers are adequately instructed in the use of technology devices and how to integrate technology into instruction. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Teachers must know how to use digital devices well before trying to teach lessons using the devices.</b></li> </ul>  |

See opposite side for 2 more League positions on technology.

The last two policy positions on technology are about maintenance and support for teachers teaching with technology. Other counties in NC have instituted these with local funds, but because the state legislature supports improving digital education in public schools, it would be reasonable for the state legislature to support funding for maintenance of the thousands of digital devices per county and to support teachers teaching with technology.

| Community Survey Results   | Positions On Technology of the League Of Women Voters Of Henderson County   | LWVHC Rational for Including Positions in the Study   |
|--|---|---|
| <p><b>In Favor</b><br/>71%</p> <p><b>No Opinion</b><br/>17%</p> <p><b>Not in favor</b><br/>12%</p> | <p>3. In a quality public education, a computer technician is responsible for a single school to help distribute, trouble-shoot, and maintain all technical equipment for faculty, staff, and students.</p>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>In the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, schools are dependent on many different kinds of digital devices to educate and communicate with students.</b></li> <li>• <b>Devices fail unexpectedly and often.</b></li> <li>• <b>Technicians are necessary to keep education and communication flowing smoothly.</b></li> <li>• <b>Taxpayer money is wasted if technology is not working.</b></li> </ul> |
| <p><b>In Favor</b><br/>76%</p> <p><b>No Opinion</b><br/>12%</p> <p><b>Not in favor</b><br/>12%</p> | <p>4. In a quality public education, there are sufficient Instructional Technology Facilitators in the district to help all teachers integrate technology to enhance their lessons, meet the state and national curriculum standards, and engage students of all levels</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Technology facilitators are a needed support system for teachers as they plan individualized, appropriate, and interesting lessons, navigate mandated testing, and keep up to date with ever-changing technology.</b></li> </ul>  |

If you have questions, please contact LWVHC President Sharon Burlingame at [sburlingame401@gmail.com](mailto:sburlingame401@gmail.com) or by phone at (828) 692-4012.

May 18, 2016

To: The Henderson County Board of Commissioners

Subject: Objection To Improvident Expenditure Of \$10+ Million

Gentlemen:

I wish to voice my strongest objection to the unnecessary expenditure of an amount of more than ten million dollars by the county during the next few years. This expenditure is the result of the Commissioners having approved the construction of an entirely new school building on property formerly owned by Boyd Automotive, rather than renovating the current HHS building. The decision has been opposed by a majority of the Board of Education, the HHS School Administration, the HHS Alumni Association, representatives of the HHS student body, and numerous concerned county residents.

As for keeping the Stillwell building in a non-use status, that is a pipedream. Such an approach was tried in Lenoir, for example, and now its historic building is mostly boarded up and faces the prospect of demolition because of the cost of upkeep, which becomes more expensive as time passes. It is axiomatic that preservation is best achieved by continued use.

The rationale of sparing the student body the inconvenience of using temporary classrooms during renovation of the Stillwell building is not persuasive. Many of us older persons attended school under much worse circumstances. Moreover, the upgrade could be sequenced with new additions to the Stillwell structure being built first and most of the work being done after 3 PM.

The proposal to deed the property to the county during construction is simply a ruse to avoid the clear language of NCGS 115C-521. The explanation offered by counsel cannot withstand a legal challenge since the law is so clear, and the same ownership circumstances are the same in most of the rest of the counties in North Carolina. If the county elects to proceed by overruling the Board of Education, it should ask the state courts for a Declaratory Order, rather than relying on one attorney's opinion.

I have personally contacted a number of concerned HHS alumni, and many of them are up in arms over this decision. They feel like we are speaking, but you are not listening, and we will not yield to an arbitrary decision which seems to have been a foregone conclusion at the outset of the project.

In sum, the new building is a bad decision and invites the specter of a hidden agenda. The rock-solid Stillwell building should be renovated at a total cost of less than \$40 million. The lower half of the Boyd property should be used as a parking lot for students and faculty during the day and for sports and other school-sponsored events on the weekend. The upper half of the property can be reserved for future buildings, if school attendance should exceed expectations.

Submitted by,



Thomas W. Hill, HHS Class of 1956  
2700 Mt. Olivet Road, Zirconia, NC 28790