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Louise Winters, Vice-President District B
Earsie Simpson, Secretary District C
Elder William Dean, Jr., Member District D
Rayford Horton, Member District E

James L. Henderson, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

## Connecting for Success: Every Chifd, Every Classroom, Every Day

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **HCCSD BOE Considers Pay Raise**

LEXINGTON, Miss. – Dealing with a national crisis such as COVID-19, a person's true character is revealed. There have been many lessons learned throughout this pandemic and the resilience of the employees in the Holmes County Consolidated School District (HCCSD) has been unmatched. Their work has not gone unnoticed.

Dr. James L. Henderson, Superintendent of Schools said, "I have always known that my essential workers are great, but I quickly realized that they are phenomenal after the pandemic hit. Our cafeteria workers and bus drivers galvanized into action on behalf of our children."

The closing of schools caused by the COVID-19 pandemic emphasized how critical teamwork is: "While I thank our teachers and school leaders for working daily to bring instruction and assessment to our students via our Online Learning Program, our other employees have been doing their jobs as well to make sure the needs of our children are met," Henderson said.

Cafeteria staff prepared daily breakfasts and lunches for delivery by bus drivers whose buses are kept in running condition by mechanics. Central Office clerical employees, parent liaisons and school secretaries are working remotely to support teachers and school leaders and provide customer service to parents who call daily with questions.

State documentation is still required of MSIS Clerks and Special Education case managers and the custodians and maintenance crew are keeping buildings sanitized and in good repair. "Even though school is closed, our district is very much in operation. Our workers deserve a pay raise and we're thankful of the Board's consideration," Henderson said.

Reverend Anthony Anderson, Board of Education president, agrees with Dr. Henderson. "Our staff is hard-working and dedicated to our children. We are pleased to be able to consider this comprehensive raise for all of the non-certified staff. We appreciate their contributions to the district during this time of the pandemic."

If approved by the full board, each employee will receive an increase of \$1,500.00.

Media organizations in need of more information are asked to contact Ms. Deborah Antoine, Media Spokesperson by email: dantoine@holmesccsd.org, or call (662) 854-3447.

