

**RESOLUTION TO REQUEST APPROVAL AND APPROPRIATION OF 2018  
SCHOOL BOND FUNDS FOR GASTON COUNTY SCHOOLS**

WHEREAS, in May 2018, the citizens of Gaston County approved a \$250 million bond referendum to provide adequate school facilities for the students and employees of Gaston County Schools; and

WHEREAS, the referendum proposed the building of several new schools to accommodate the anticipated growth of the Gaston region; and

WHEREAS, many facilities which currently house the students are in desperate need of repair, renovation and reconstruction; and

WHEREAS, these needs have been outlined in a Capital Improvement Plan totaling in excess of \$700 million; and

WHEREAS, the 2018 bond referendum authorizing \$250 million in school bonds proposed using the funds for new school construction, school additions, and renovations and repairs; and

WHEREAS, since the \$250 million bonds were authorized in 2018, the County issued \$60 million in funding that has been provided to construct a 160,000 square foot replacement middle school in Belmont, NC and numerous needed renovations and repairs at existing schools including new roofs, updated life safety and security systems, more efficient lighting and HVAC systems, site improvements, etc.; and

WHEREAS, the Gaston County School district has either utilized or dedicated approximately 98% of the issued \$60 million in funding for the purposes cited above; and

WHEREAS, the Gaston County Board of Education has determined that multiple facility needs can be addressed by using the remaining bond proceeds and

WHEREAS, the Operations Committee of the Board of Education has recommended that Grier Middle School be replaced with a new school due in part to population growth and the age of the facilities;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Gaston County Board of Education requests that the Gaston County Board of Commissioners appropriate additional funds from the 2018 Bond Referendum to be used for enlarging, renovating and maintaining existing school buildings and other school plant facilities and for the construction of a new Grier Middle School in Gastonia, NC.

Adopted this 16 day of August, 2021.

Gaston County Schools

Superintendent:

Gaston County Board of Education

Chair: