WHEREAS, reading is the foundation for success, and our students are encouraged to imagine, discover, learn, and grow through the exploration of literature; and

WHEREAS, since 1976, every American president has designated February as Black History Month in the United States, and the annual observance is intended to highlight the accomplishments and contributions of African Americans, including authors, illustrators, poets, essayists, novelists, and others who have had a significant influence on African-American literature; and

WHEREAS, the Coretta Scott King Book Awards are presented each year by the American Library Association to recognize excellent books for children and young adults that were written and illustrated by African Americans and reflect the African-American experience; and

WHEREAS, teachers across Gaston County, especially during Black History Month, are encouraged to bring attention to the books that have won the Coretta Scott King Award as these literary works are ideal for classroom teaching and learning and student engagement.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Gaston County Board of Education is proud to support enriching literature-based activities that promote reading, raise awareness of history, and celebrate diversity and also commends the African American Museum of History and Culture at Loray Mill for its efforts to bring attention to the significance of African-American culture and literature.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be made a part of the minutes of the Board of Education, adopted this the fifteenth day of February, 2021.

Jeff K. Ramsey, Chairman
Gaston County Board of Education

W. Jeffrey Booker, Superintendent
Gaston County Schools