

GASTON COUNTY
BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR WORK SESSION



Shaping Our Future

Rader Staff Development Center
240 Eighth Avenue, Cramerton, NC 28032
August 7, 2017
5:30 p.m. Meeting

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 8/7/2017

Agenda Item Title/Topic: Agenda Adoption

Type of Item: ☐ Consent ☒ Action ☐ Information

Main Points:

Consideration of Formal Agenda for Monday, August 7, 2017.

Roberts Rules of Order (Revised) adoption of Agenda for meeting sequence and structure.

Fiscal Implications:

None

Recommendation:

Adoption of Agenda

Policy Implications:

None

Strategic Goal Alignment:

Goal 1. Every student will graduate prepared for post-secondary opportunities.

Submitted by: W. Jeffrey Booker **Department:** Superintendent/Public Information

GASTON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Kevin Collier - Chairman – Riverbend Township

Jeffrey Ramsey - Vice Chairman – At Large

Dot Cherry, At Large
Lee Dedmon, Gastonia Township
Dot Guthrie, Gastonia Township
Chris Howell, South Point Township



Brent Moore, Crowders Mtn. Township
Catherine Roberts, Dallas Township
Terry Usery, Cherryville Township

Rader Staff Development Center
240 Eighth Ave., Cramerton, NC 28032

Monday, August 7, 2017

5:30 p.m.

AGENDA

Page(s)

- I. Call to Order
- II. Agenda Adoption - Action 1-2
- III. Curriculum & Instruction Committee Report – Information 3
- IV. Operations Committee Report – Information 4
- V. Gaston County Virtual Academy – Information..... 5
- VI. High School Credit Recovery – Information 6
- VII. STAND UP Gaston – Information 7
- VIII. Summer Professional Development – Information..... 8
- IX. Awarded Grants - Information 9
- X. 2017-2018 Budget Resolution – Information.....10
- XI. Closed Session – N.C.G.S. §143-318.11(a)(3) Consultation with Attorney
In order to consult with the Board's attorney and protect the attorney-client privilege, and to receive advice with respect to the lawsuit captioned MB Realty Group, Inc. and Matt Beckham vs. The Gaston County Board of Education, Gaston County et al.
N.C.G.S. §143-318.11(a)(5) Property
N.C.G.S. §143-318.11(a)(6) Personnel
- XII. Adjournment

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 8/7/2017

Agenda Item Title/Topic: Curriculum & Instruction Committee Report

Type of Item: ☐ Consent ☐ Action ☒ Information

Main Points:

The Gaston County Board of Education's Curriculum and Instruction Committee will report to the Board regarding current committee projects and issues.

A Curriculum and Instruction Committee member will present a report of committee activities occurring since the last Board of Education Meeting.

Fiscal Implications:

None

Recommendation:

None

Policy Implications:

Board will be informed of Curriculum and Instruction projects and issues.

Strategic Goal Alignment:

Goal 1. Every student will graduate prepared for post-secondary opportunities.

Submitted by: Curriculum and Instruction Committee

Department: Curriculum and Instruction

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 8/7/2017

Agenda Item Title/Topic: Operations Committee Report

Type of Item: ☐ Consent ☐ Action ☒ Information

Main Points:

The Gaston County Board of Education's Operation Committee will report to the Board regarding current committee projects and issues.

An Operation Committee member will present a report of committee activities occurring since the last Board of Education Meeting.

Fiscal Implications:

None

Recommendation:

None

Policy Implications:

Board will be informed of Operations Committee information.

Strategic Goal Alignment:

Goal 1. Every student will graduate prepared for post-secondary opportunities.

Submitted by: Operations Committee Report **Department:** Operational Services

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 8/7/2017

Agenda Item Title/Topic: Gaston County Virtual Academy

Type of Item: ☐ Consent ☐ Action ☒ Information

Main Points:

Gaston County Virtual Academy (GCVA), the district's online middle school, will begin serving students on August 28, 2017. Virtual learning provides students with the opportunity to have a more flexible schedule. All core content areas (ELA, Math, Science, and Social Studies) will be offered. Students can also choose select electives offered at their home schools. All applicants complete a screening process to ensure online learning is most suitable for the student's academic needs. A technology device and reliable internet connectivity are required to participate in the online learning. Edgenuity is the digital platform Academic Services has selected to provide the NCDPI approved courses. Edgenuity will also provide highly qualified, North Carolina certified teachers to teach all of the virtual courses. Students will have rigorous assignments aligned to state standards.

Fiscal Implications:

The contract cost for Edgenuity is \$57,000.

Recommendation:

Review information shared to consider use of the program.

Policy Implications:

None

Strategic Goal Alignment:

Goal 2. Every member of our diverse population has the opportunity for individualized instruction.

Submitted by: Dr. Melissa W. Balknight

Department: Academic Services

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 8/7/2017

Agenda Item Title/Topic: High School Credit Recovery

Type of Item: ☐ Consent ☐ Action ☒ Information

Main Points:

North Carolina Department of Public Instruction policy GCS-M-001 defines a student's ability to recover course credit for a course previously taken where credit was not earned. For several years, Gaston County Schools has successfully implemented this policy using an online program for credit recovery. Academic Services has selected Edgenuity as the new vendor for credit recovery. Edgenuity was founded in 1998. Their web-based platform was launched in 2005. Since 2015 they have served over two million students.

Fiscal Implications:

The contract cost for Edgenuity is \$65,200. This includes \$63,000 for credit recovery licenses and \$2,200 for professional development to train school facilitators.

Recommendation:

Review information shared to consider use of the program.

Policy Implications:

None

Strategic Goal Alignment:

Goal 2. Every member of our diverse population has the opportunity for individualized instruction.

Submitted by: Dr. Melissa W. Balknight

Department: Academic Services

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 8/7/2017

Agenda Item Title/Topic: STAND UP Gaston

Type of Item: ☐ Consent ☐ Action ☒ Information

Main Points:

Gaston County Schools (GCS) and The Shelter of Gaston County have formed a local initiative to enhance anti-bullying efforts. STAND UP Gaston will support Rachel's Challenge which focuses on bullying prevention and establishing healthy relationships.

The STAND UP program will be introduced at all GCS high schools through a play about bullying awareness and reducing bullying behaviors performed by Stuart Cramer's theater students.

GCS middle schools kick-off will include a speaker to discuss the importance of setting academic, personal, and career goals for themselves.

GCS elementary schools will utilize counselors to introduce the program that will focus on social and emotional learning.

An online bullying report form will be added to the district website and to each school's counseling website, allowing students and parents to report bullying anonymously. Information submitted online will be forwarded to the appropriate school administrator(s) to be investigated. After looking into the situation, school administrators will complete a follow-up form to indicate the outcome and future protection measures for the student(s) involved.

Fiscal Implications:

None

Recommendation:

Utilize the new resources to support bullying prevention.

Policy Implications:

None

Strategic Goal Alignment:

Goal 5. Every student has the opportunity to learn in a safe school environment.

Submitted by: Dr. Melissa W. Balknight

Department: Academic Services

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 8/7/2017

Agenda Item Title/Topic: Summer Professional Development

Type of Item: ☐ Consent ☐ Action ☒ Information

Main Points:

Elementary, middle, and high school teachers received extensive professional development during the 2017 summer months. The trainings ranged from balanced literacy to project-based learning. A select number of elementary and middle school teachers participated in a four day Home Grown Institute centered around reading and writing. Teachers from ten schools were trained on inquiry-based math and small group instruction. Eighth grade math training focused on the new Advanced eighth grade math course. Middle school science teachers took part in a Science Institute, where they deconstructed the science essential standards. Alan November continued his training with our high schools in the areas of technology integration, project-based learning and the Information Revolution.

Administrators from all three levels attended specialized trainings designed for them, in addition to participating in the above teacher professional development opportunities.

Fiscal Implications:

None

Recommendation:

Continue to provide professional development to teachers and administrators.

Policy Implications:

None

Strategic Goal Alignment:

Goal 3. Every employee is capable and committed to the education of the whole child.

Submitted by: Dr. Melissa W. Balknight **Department:** Academic Services

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 8/7/2017

Agenda Item Title/Topic: Awarded Grants

Type of Item: ☐ Consent ☐ Action ☒ Information

Main Points:

Academic Services has been awarded multiple grants slated to begin in the 2017-2018 school year. The goals of the grants include a range of focus areas: providing academic enrichment to elementary and high school students, expanding Career and Technical Education course offerings, and supporting at-risk high school students on their educational journey.

The grants are:

21st Century Community Learning Center grant is designated for the after school program at Pleasant Ridge Elementary. The program will serve 150 students from Lingerfeldt and Pleasant Ridge.

Upward Bound is an academic enrichment program for students who meet the program requirements from Bessemer City High School and Hunter Huss High School.

Golden Leaf grant provides the expansion of Career and Technical Education course offerings with the opportunity to earn college credits.

LEAP grant is an after school and out-of-school enrichment program for at-risk high school students.

Fiscal Implications:

Increased resources for students and staff in Gaston County.

Recommendation:

Continue to apply for and receive grants to support students and teachers.

Policy Implications:

None

Strategic Goal Alignment:

Goal 1. Every student will graduate prepared for post-secondary opportunities.

Submitted by: Dr. Melissa W. Balknight

Department: Academic Services

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 8/7/2017

Agenda Item Title/Topic: 2017-2018 Budget Resolution

Type of Item: ☐ Consent ☐ Action ☒ Information

Main Points:

May 1, 2017 - The Board of Education approved the 2017-2018 GCS Budget Request.

May 9, 2017 – presented the 2017-2018 GCS Budget Request to the Board of County Commissioners as required by G.S. §115C-429(a).

June 13, 2017 – The Board of County Commissioners approved the County Budget for 2017-2018.

June 29, 2017 – General Assembly overrode Governor's veto of biennial State budget for 2017-2019.

Fiscal Implications:

2017-2018 GCS Budget

Recommendation:

Information only

Policy Implications:

See General Statute cited above.

Strategic Goal Alignment:

Other: Policy or Gen Statute. See above.

Submitted by: Gary F. Hoskins, CFO

Department: Finance