

**Gaston County Schools
BOE Curriculum & Instruction Committee Meeting Minutes
February 7, 2017**

Members Present: Dot Guthrie, Melissa Balknight, Terry Usery, Dot Cherry, Catherine Roberts, Lolita Williams

Others Present: James Montgomery, Jodi Edwards, Leigh Smith, Carrie Minnich, Glynis Brooks, Kim Mattox, Joey Clinton, Carolyn Spencer, Karl Sain, Shelly Gibson, Selina Bryne

Dot Guthrie called meeting to order at 4:36 pm. After welcoming Terry Usery to the committee, a motion was made by Dot Cherry, and seconded by Catherine Roberts, to approve the minutes from the October 24, 2016 meeting, with a unanimous vote.

SMART Lunch at Forestview High School was updated. The Forestview High School Principal will meet with the parents to reconsider implementing SMART Lunch.

The recommendation to continue the **Educational Partnership Institute Contract** was presented. Gaston County Schools has a partnership with Education Partners International (EPI). The teachers in this program all have international origins. Currently, 33 EPI teachers are in the Gaston County Schools system. This partnership filled 19 high-needs positions in our schools this year. EPI teachers work predominately in our high schools in critical areas such as math, science and foreign language. The contract with EPI is \$450,000 per year based on the number of people employed. These teachers are hired year-to-year. With agreement from the committee, this item will be placed on the consent agenda for the next meeting with the full Board.

Career and Technical Education Expansion Updates were presented in reference to Cherryville High School partnering with the Cherryville Education Foundation to add an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) program.

Through a proposed 21st Century Federal grant, a Community Learning Center will provide an **Extension of the School Day** for afterschool programs to increase academic enrichment, family literacy, and community outreach. The 1.2 million dollar grant will provide funding for all aspects of the afterschool program, including student transportation and staff salaries. Students will be selected from specified data criteria and participation will require parent permission.

The **Academic Services Update** illustrated how K-12 English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics focus on student-centered collaboration and independent practice. Within three years, all schools will have received intense professional development and training in these content areas. All teachers (EC, ESL, AIG, etc.) will participate in the summer trainings. Administrators will attend trainings with their teachers.

Upcoming **Committee Meeting Dates** were approved by the committee. The dates will be posted on the District's website. The dates are as follows: March 16, 2017; April 4, 2017; May 9, 2017; June 6, 2017.

Information was presented suggesting high school **Graduation Requirements** move to the Latin Honors system.

A recommendation was made for **High School Evaluations/Exams**. Information was presented to move from the six weeks grading period to a nine weeks grading period and move the exam weight to 20%.

The Committee Chairperson stated that the **Hawks Nest** agenda item is for information only. No action will be taken at this time. Parents wish for the Board to implement an Inclusive Sibling Policy which would permit siblings to attend Hawks Nest STEAM Academy.

The following individuals addressed the committee:

-Linda McDuffie- 102 Merewood Road Belmont, NC
-Keith Porter- 1040 Dan Maples Drive Cramerton, NC
-Jeff Ritter- 204 Tinkham Trail Cramerton, NC

The committee discussed the item and the information presented by the speakers. The committee directs staff to distribute copies of information provided to the committee by the speakers to the full Board prior to February 20, 2017 Board of Education meeting for consideration. The committee is not prepared at this time to make any recommendations to the full Board regarding a change in the current application process for Hawks Nest STEAM Academy.

Dot Cherry motioned to adjourn. Seconded by a unanimous vote.

Meeting adjourned at 7:20 pm
Submitted by: Lolita Williams