

**Gaston County Schools
Board of Education
Monday, May 21, 2018
Meeting 5:30 p.m.**

Minutes

The Gaston County Board of Education met in a regular session on Monday, May 21, 2018 in the Board Room, 943 Osceola Street, Gastonia, NC. Those Board members in attendance were: Chairman Kevin Collier, Vice Chairman Jeff Ramsey, Dot Cherry, Justin Davis, Lee Dedmon, Dot Guthrie, Brent Moore, Catherine Roberts and Terry Usery.

Additional attendees include: Superintendent W. Jeffrey Booker, Attorney Sonya McGraw, Associate Superintendents Dr. Melissa Balknight, Gary Hoskins, Dr. Kim Mattox, Assistant Superintendent Cindee Matson, Chief Communications Officer Todd Hagans and Board Clerk Dana Luoto.

Chairman Collier called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and welcomed everyone.

Invocation

Superintendent Booker led the invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance

Merritt McCotter, a third grade student at Belmont Central Elementary, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Superintendent Booker presented Merritt with a flag pin.

Agenda Adoption - Action

The Board considered Agenda Adoption – Action

Motion to adopt the Agenda as presented was made by Mr. Terry Usery seconded by Mrs. Dot Guthrie motion carried unanimously. (9-0)

Good News – Information

Superintendent Booker recognized Merritt McCotter. Earlier this month, Merritt was recognized as the “Proudest Kid in Gaston County” after writing an essay about why she loves living in Gaston County. The essay contest is sponsored by Gaston Together and is designed to engage children in learning about their community.

Mr. Justin Davis presented a Certificate of Recognition to Merritt.

Superintendent Booker recognized Julia Morrow, Joseph Buckner and Patience Foster all from Highland School of Technology.

These students competed in the prestigious North Carolina Moot Court championship in Raleigh, presenting their arguments in a mock trial in front of the North Carolina Supreme Court.

Julia and Joseph were recognized as first place in the state while Patience and Sara Jane Heavner (who could not be here this evening) earned second place. Julia was recognized as the “best arguer” during the competition.

Mr. Lee Dedmon presented a Certificate of Recognition to all students.

Superintendent Booker recognized Addison Beam, Highland School of Technology, who recently won the Individual 1A Golf State Championship.

Addison finished first in the state by one stroke. In the two-day tournament at Fox Fire’s Golf Course near Pinehurst, he shot a 77 on the first day and a 73 on the second for a 150 total score.

Mr. Lee Dedmon presented a Certificate of Recognition to Addison.

Superintendent Booker announced since our last Board Meeting our community approved a 250 million dollar bond referendum.

Superintendent Booker recognized members of “Our Children, Our Future” community committee who were instrumental in ensuring passage of the school bonds. Wil Neumann, committee chairperson, Steve D’Avria, Steve Huffstetler and Erin Russell were a valuable part of the group responsible for coordinating the community-wide campaign and they did an excellent job.

Ms. Dot Cherry presented the committee with a Certificate of Recognition plaque.

Public Expression – Information

Edward Sweezy
2409 Rosemond Circle
Gastonia, NC
RE: Bullying

Andru Lockridge
603 Helms Drive
Lowell, NC
RE: Teacher Rally Update

Julian Wilson
2929 Davis Park Road
Gastonia, NC
RE: Teacher Rally Update

Diane Gibson
908 S. South Street
Gastonia, NC
RE: Teacher Rally Update

Elisabeth Haywood
4024 Hereford Lane
Dallas, NC
RE: Teacher Rally Update

Approval/Correction of Minutes – Action

The Board considered Approval of Minutes – Action

Motion to adopt minutes of March 5, 2018 and March 19, 2018 as presented was made by Ms. Dot Cherry; seconded by Mr. Lee Dedmon motion carried unanimously. (9-0)

Classroom Moment – Information

Chairman Collier recognized Dr. Melissa Balknight who introduced Dr. Cristi Bostic. Dr. Bostic introduced Caroline Black, Principal at B.C. Central, and Rita Kennedy, teacher assistant at B.C. Central. Ms. Black presented a PowerPoint on The Calming Classroom and Ms. Kennedy shared her experiences as teacher assistant of the Calming Classroom.

(View PowerPoint.)

School Nutrition SY 18-19 Procurement Plan – Action

Chairman Collier recognized Mr. Gary Hoskins who introduced Mr. Frank Fields who asked the Board to consider approval of the School Nutrition Procurement Plan, a requirement by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction.

Motion

The Motion was made Mrs. Dot Guthrie; seconded by Mr. Lee Dedmon that the Board approve:

School Nutrition SY 18-19 Procurement Plan

A vote was taken and motion to approve the item as presented carried unanimously. (9-0)

Strategic Plan Update – Information

Chairman Collier recognized Mrs. Cindee Matson who introduced Ms. Rebekka Powers. Mrs. Matson and Ms. Powers presented a PowerPoint on Strategic Plan Update.

(View PowerPoint.)

Career and Technical Education Update – Information

Chairman Collier recognized Dr. Melissa Balknight who introduced Mr. Brett Buchanan who presented a PowerPoint on Career and Technical Education.

(View PowerPoint.)

Consent Agenda – Action

The Board considered the Consent Agenda; (1) Recommended Personnel; (2) Budget Amendments & Budget Transfers; (3) Construction/Repair Change Orders; (4) Resolution Authorizing GCS to Engage in Electronic Payments; (5) Gaston College Board of Trustees Appointment; (6) Career and Technical Education Local Planning System Grant; (7) Medicaid Administrative Claim (MAC) Participation Agreement; (8) Federal Programs Grants for Professional Development; (9) Modern Teacher Digital Convergence – Contract; (10) Stanley Middle School Abatement Contract for Services.

Motion to adopt the Consent Agenda as presented was made by Ms. Dot Cherry; seconded by Mr. Jeff Ramsey motion carried unanimously. (9-0)

Superintendent's Comments

Superintendent Booker reminded everyone that our schools are in need of volunteers to serve as test proctors. If you are able to serve as a test proctor, we encourage you to call the school in your neighborhood for more information to sign up.

Superintendent Booker stressed that we take school safety very seriously, and we work hand-in-hand with our local law enforcement agencies to do everything we can to ensure our schools are safe and secure for students, parents and employees. It is important for everyone to be vigilant because school safety involves the entire community. We would like to thank our school resource officers and law enforcement for everything they do to support Gaston County Schools.

Superintendent Booker congratulated Denise McLean of Highland School of Technology who was chosen as the Gaston County Principal of the Year for 2018-2019; Carmin Adams of Belmont Central Elementary who was named the Gaston County Teacher of the Year; Meghan LeFevers of Bessemer City High School who was named the Gaston County Assistant Principal of the Year; and Carrie Minnich our Executive Director for Exceptional Children who was named the Central Office Administrator of the Year.

Superintendent Booker reported at the Gaston Early College graduation over 30 students earned an Associate of Art Degree and an Associate of Science degree.

Superintendent Booker acknowledged our Communications Department, school administrators, booster club groups and many others who were involved in providing information to our parents and employees about the school bonds. It took a whole team, whole community effort, and we sincerely appreciate everyone's involvement.

Superintendent Booker congratulated seniors in the Class of 2018 and extended best wishes to them as they receive their diploma on June 9th and begin a new phase in life.

Closed Session

Chairman Collier asked the Board to consider going into Closed Session under, N.C.G.S. §143-318.11(a)(3) Consultation with Attorney and N.C.G.S. §143-318.11(a)(6) Personnel.

Chairman Collier reported there was no need to discuss Property in Closed Session.

Motion to go into Closed Session was made by Mr. Jeff Ramsey; seconded by Mr. Brent Moore motion carried unanimously. (9-0)

The Board went into Closed Session at 7:18 p.m.

The Board returned to Open Session at 7:43 p.m.

Motion

The Motion was made by Mr. Brent Moore; seconded by Ms. Dot Cherry that the Board

Approve Principal Contract for Two (2) Years Beginning July 1, 2018 for:

·Meghan LeFevers

A vote was taken and motion to approve the item as presented carried unanimously. (9-0)

Motion

The Motion was made by Ms. Dot Cherry; seconded by Mr. Jeff Ramsey that the Board

Approve Principal Contract for Two (2) Years Beginning July 1, 2018 for:

·Mitch Allen

A vote was taken and motion to approve the item as presented carried unanimously. (9-0)

Motion

The Motion was made by Ms. Dot Guthrie; seconded by Mr. Justin Davis that the Board
Approve Principal Contract for Two (2) Years Beginning July 1, 2018 for:
·Darice Irby

A vote was taken and motion to approve the item as presented carried unanimously. (9-0)

Superintendent Booker congratulated Carrie Minnich on joining the Curriculum Team as Executive Director of K-12.

Adjournment

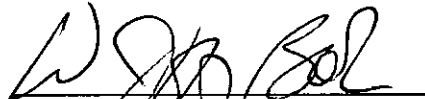
All business having been conducted, Motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Lee Dedmon; seconded by Mr. Justin Davis motion carried unanimously. (9-0)

The Board Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Approved:



Kevin L. Collier, Chairman
[Corporate Seal]


W. Jeffrey Booker, Secretary

Date Approved:

7/9/18

The Calming Classroom

Board of Education
May 21, 2018

♥ FB/JOYOFMOM ♥

The kids who
need the most
love will ask
for it in the
most unloving
of ways.



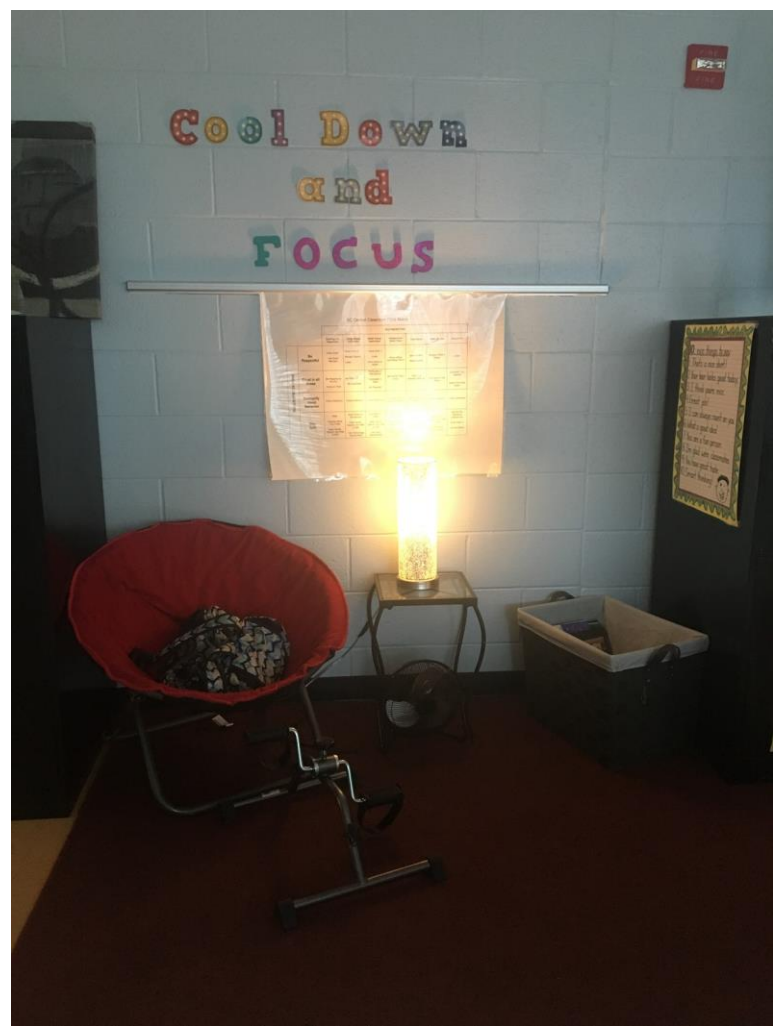
Suspension Data

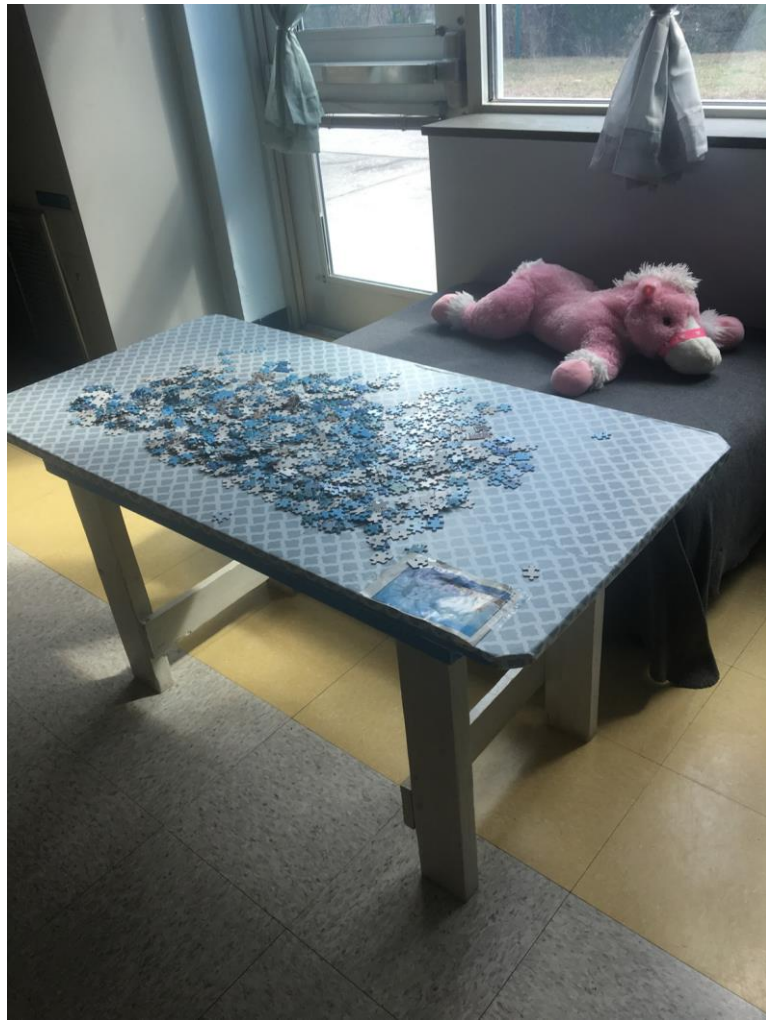
- **2016 - 2017 - 752 Office Referrals**
 - **346 - Classroom Disruptions**
 - **72 - OSS Assignments**
 - **104 - ISS Assignments**
- **2017 - 2018 - 302 - Office Referrals**
 - **109 - Classroom Disruptions**
 - **35 - OSS Assignments**
 - **47- ISS Assignments**



Alternative to Suspensions

- **Research Based Therapy Stations**
 - **Music - Classical**
 - **Journaling - Remains Confidential**
 - **Kinesthetic - Stationary Pedals, Stability Ball, Rebound Trampoline**
 - **Tactile - Rubik's Cubes, Puzzles, Clay, Kinetic Sand**
 - **Spatial - Privacy Tent with Stuffed Animals and Blankets**







Other Roles of the Calming Room Facilitator

- Morning Greeter
- Social Skills Classes - EC Students
- PBIS Lessons
- Teacher Check Ins
- Lunch Buddy
- Bully Prevention

Gaston County Schools Strategic Plan Update

Board of Education
May 21, 2018

Celebrate! Gaston County Schools



Agenda

- **Overview of the Strategic Plan 2014-2019**
 - Stakeholder input - topics discussed
 - Four guiding principles
 - Vision, mission, and beliefs
 - Strategic Plan Measures and Scorecard

GASTON COUNTY SCHOOLS

Community Talks

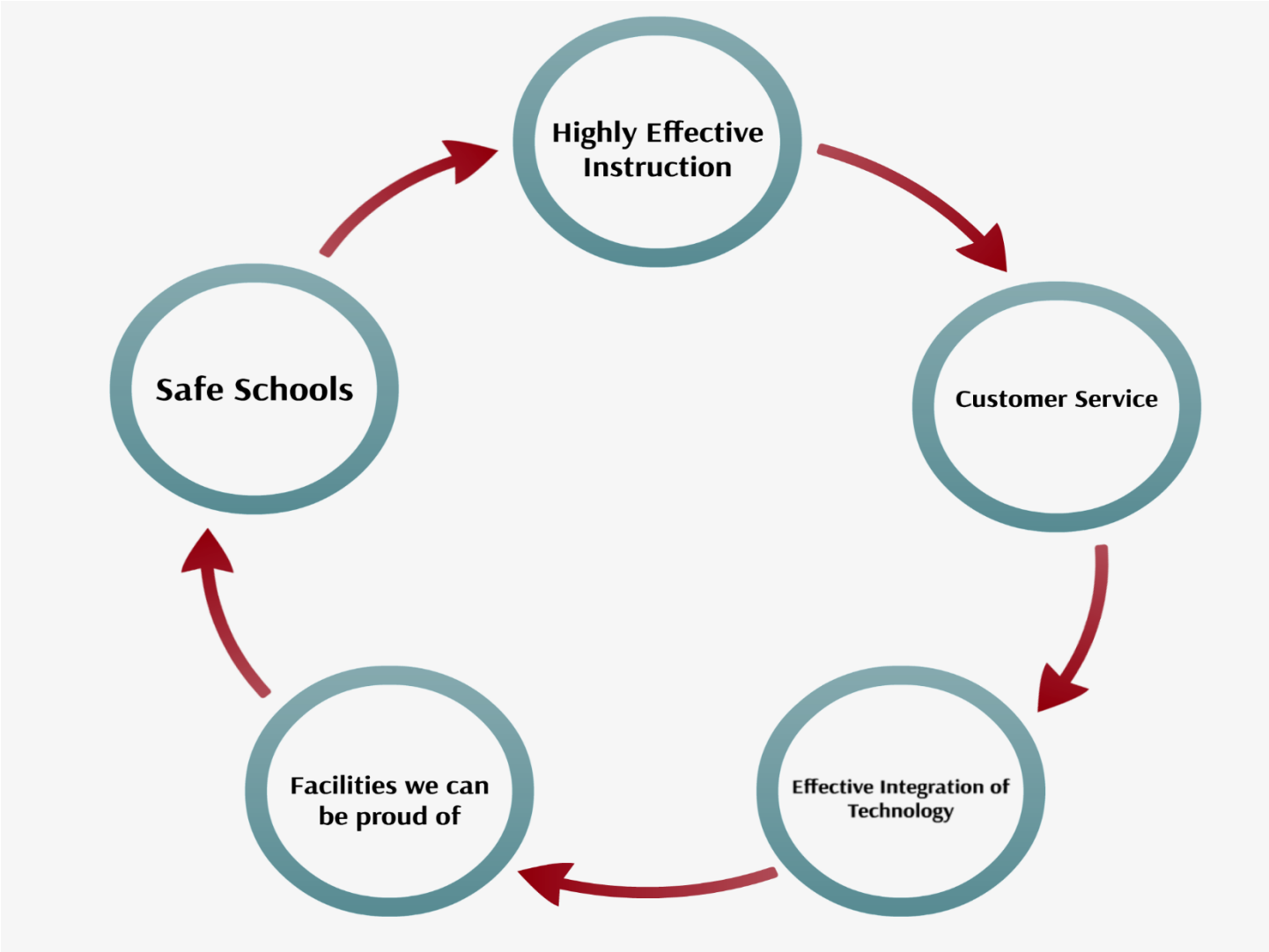
with the Superintendent

- Began the conversation
- 14 meetings at seven school locations
- 1,228 attendees
- More than 1,600 comments

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Strategic Plan

Gaston County Schools



OUR SCHOOLS <



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[Academics](#)

[How to Enroll](#)

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[Community](#)

Administration

[Home](#) > [About Us](#) > [Administration](#) > [Vision, Mission and Goals](#)

[Administration](#)

[Organization Chart](#)

[Vision, Mission and Goals](#)

[District Information](#)

[Facts and Figures](#)

[List of Schools](#)

[District Map](#)

[Strategic Plan](#)

Vision, Mission and Goals

Gaston County Schools Strategic Plan 2014-2019

■ Vision

The vision of Gaston County Schools is to inspire success and a lifetime of learning.

■ Mission

Through outstanding employees and community partners, Gaston County Schools provides innovative educational opportunities for all students in a safe and nurturing learning environment.

■ Beliefs

- Diversity
- Innovation
- Collaboration
- Excellence
- Safety



Academics

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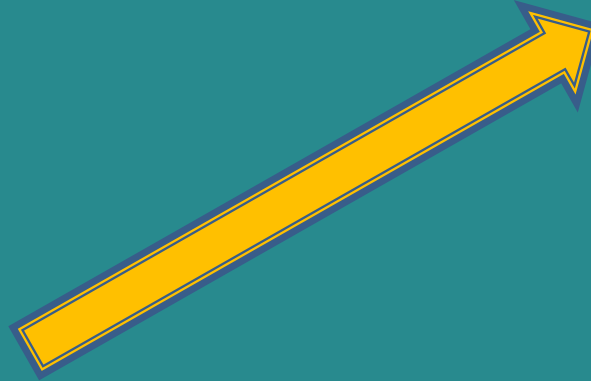


Academics

- Focus on proficiency and growth
- Literacy
- School choice
- Career and Technical Education
- Professional development

Graduation Rate

83.5
2013-2014



88.3
2016-2017

+4.8 points

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School Performance

84

77.5

2/5

55

CTE Certifications

4th

Student Earned Certifications

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Effective Employees

2,651

34

219

1,000

Technology

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Technology

- **Technology in the classroom**
- **WiFi at all schools**
- **Google district**
- **Technology upgrades**
- **Robust network**

Customer Service Communication

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Customer Service / Communication

- Customer service attitude
- Parent/community liaison
- Communication efforts
- Website and social media
- Mobile app

Technology and Customer Service

1.33:1

88

6,753,272

16,493

Community Involvement

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Community Involvement

- “Continue the conversation”
- Community outreach
- Business/community partnerships
- Mentors/volunteers
- Special events and programs

Community Involvement

3,770

287

432

CTE
Advisory
Board

Facilities School Safety

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Facilities / School Safety

- Capital needs
- New school construction
- School resource officers
- Partnership with law enforcement
- Security upgrades and safety audits

Facilities/School Safety

Rachel's
Challenge

STAND UP
GASTON

SRO

1

What's Ahead

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What's Ahead

- **School Improvement Plans**
- **New strategic plan in 2019-2020**
- **Begin with Board of Education**
- **Community Meetings**
- **Departmental Meetings**
- **Advisory Meetings**

**The vision of
Gaston County Schools
is to inspire success and
a lifetime of learning.**



Thank you

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Career and Technical Education

Board of Education
May 21, 2018

Celebrate! Gaston County Schools



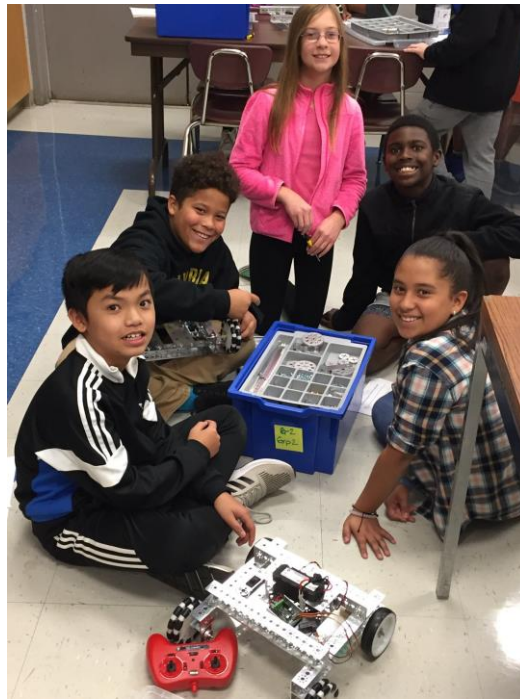
PRODIGIOUS

Remarkably or impressively great in extent, size, or degree



CTE Local Planning System (LPS) Grant

- The LPS serves as a district's planning document and application for CTE state and federal funds for the upcoming fiscal year.



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General CTE Information for 17-18

High School Student Students	10,900
Middle School Student Students	6,300
CTE Staff	147
CTE Courses Offered	114/170
DPI Clusters Taught	14
NTHS Inductees	+11%
CTE Concentrator Graduation Rate	100%

16-17 CTE Reporting Metrics

Affinity Group 1	Rank by Size (ADM)	Credentials Earned	Technical Attainment score	Technical attainment annual increase	% of CTE students who earned certifications
WAKE COUNTY SCHOOLS	1	10063	85.1%	-0.2%	41.5%
CHARLOTTE-MECKLENBURG SCHOOLS	2	1766	68.1%	0.2%	9.5%
GUILFORD COUNTY SCHOOLS	3	4113	73.3%	3.0%	38.9%
FORSYTH COUNTY SCHOOLS	4	1939	74.7%	0.2%	43.0%
CUMBERLAND COUNTY SCHOOLS	5	5884	78.4%	0.4%	50.5%
UNION COUNTY SCHOOLS	6	4469	86.7%	2.2%	37.3%
JOHNSTON COUNTY SCHOOLS	7	3019	80.2%	-1.7%	39.4%
DURHAM COUNTY SCHOOLS	8	686	63.3%	7.3%	15.3%
CABARRUS COUNTY SCHOOLS	9	2531	81.7%	2.1%	30.0%
GASTON COUNTY SCHOOLS	10	4285	81.5%	4.1%	68.7%
Gaston's Rank in Affinity 1	10	4 (in NC)	4	2	1
		↓			
		\$68,300 CTE teacher credential bonuses (43 teachers)			



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16-17 CTE Reporting Metrics

Technical Attainment score (NC=78.5%)	County	Free and Reduced lunch %
86.7	Union	34.80%
85.1	Wake	31.80%
81.7	Cabarrus	43.0%
81.5	Gaston	██████████
80.2	Johnston	46.20%
78.4	Cumberland	60.90%
74.7	Forsyth	57.30%
73.3	Guilford	64.70%
68.1	Charlotte Meck	59.90%
63.3	Durham	60.0%

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17-18 Preliminary Reporting

- **+5.4%** Gaston - CTE proficiency fall 17 versus fall 16
- **-1.8%** Southwest Region-CTE proficiency fall 17 versus fall 16
- **-1.4%** North Carolina - CTE proficiency fall 17 versus fall 16
- **11,100+** student earned credentials and counting
(4285 in 16-17)

2017 - 2018 Career Exposure Opportunities

- 30 student [internship](#) interviews (A&E, Rochling, PSNC)
- 4,000+ students = Educators in the Workplace, Textiles Day, Caromont Career Awareness Days, Students @ Work, Manufacturing Career Expo, Construction Careers Awareness Day, Career Signing Day



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2017 - 2018 Career Exposure Opportunities



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2017 - 2018 CTE Grants/Donations

- \$634,000 Golden Leaf Grant for Advanced Manufacturing
- \$100,000 Daimler Grant for Advanced Manufacturing
- \$7,500 Manufacturing Career Expo Scholarships
- \$5,000 Gaston Together



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CTE LPS Grant Focus for 2018-2019

- CTE teacher professional development
- CTE program enhancements and technology upgrades
- Career and Technical Student Organizations
- CTE Business Advisory Council
- School choice programs at Stanley Middle and East Gaston High
- In facility CNA testing at multiple schools
- State Pilot - Teaching as a Profession



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Questions?

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