

GASTON COUNTY
BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR WORK SESSION



Shaping Our Future

Bessemer City Central Elementary
1400 Puetts Chapel Road, Bessemer City, NC 28016
January 7, 2019
5:30 p.m. Meeting

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 1/7/2019

Agenda Item Title/Topic: Agenda Adoption

Type of Item: Consent Action Information

Main Points:

Consideration of Formal Agenda for Monday, January 7, 2019.

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
Brent Moore - Chairman – Crowders Mountain Township
Kevin L. Collier - Vice Chairman – Riverbend Township

Dot Cherry, At Large
 Justin N. Davis, South Point Township
 Lee Dedmon, Gastonia Township
 Dot Guthrie, Gastonia Township



Steve Hall, Dallas Township
 Jeff Ramsey, At-Large
 Terry Usery, Cherryville Township

Bessemer City Central Elementary
 1400 Puetts Chapel Road, Bessemer City, NC 28016
 Monday, January 7, 2019
 5:30 p.m.
 Agenda

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II. Agenda Adoption – Action	1-2
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IV. Looking Ahead – Educational Options 2019-2020 – Information.....	6
V. 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 — <u>MB Realty Group, Inc. and Matt Beckham vs. The Gaston County Board of Education, Gaston County et al.</u>	
VI. Adjournment	

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 1/7/2019

Agenda Item Title/Topic: Resolution – School Calendar Flexibility

Type of Item: Consent Action Information

Main Points:

The Gaston County Board of Education believes it is vitally important to best meet the unique educational needs of the children and families of Gaston County by having local control over school calendars.

Fiscal Implications:

None

Recommendation:

Adopt a resolution in support of local control of school calendars.

Policy Implications:

N.C.G.S. §115C-84.2

Strategic Goal Alignment:

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

Submitted by: W. Jeffrey Booker

Department: Superintendent

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING LOCAL CONTROL OF SCHOOL CALENDARS

WHEREAS, the North Carolina General Statutes give local boards of education powers of supervision and control of local school systems; and

WHEREAS, local control over establishing school calendars is an integral component of school system supervision and administrative powers with which local boards of education have been vested; and

WHEREAS, in 2004, the North Carolina General Assembly seized control of setting school calendars and imposed a one-size-fits-all mandate on how school calendars are to be set; and

WHEREAS, the current one-size-fits-all school calendar start date is no earlier than the Monday closest to August 26 and the end date is no later than the Friday closest to June 11; and

WHEREAS, the state-mandated late August start date means high schools do not complete the first semester until mid to late January; and

WHEREAS, the current law essentially requires high school students to take first semester exams after the winter break, which negatively affects test scores, according to students and educators; and

WHEREAS, the second semester for high schools starts two to three weeks later than community colleges and universities; and

WHEREAS, superintendents report that the calendar misalignment makes it extremely difficult for high school students or recent winter graduates to take courses at a nearby community college or university during the second semester; and

WHEREAS, in Gaston County, students, parents, teachers and others have indicated the importance of local control of the school calendar so the first semester of school could end before the winter break; and

WHEREAS, exams for Advanced Placement classes are given on the same day nationwide, and the current calendar law shortens the amount of time North Carolina's students have to learn the material before test day; and

WHEREAS, with little flexibility built into the calendar, scheduling make-up days is extremely challenging; and

WHEREAS, schedules for extracurriculars such as fall sports and band have not changed to coincide with the state-mandated school calendar law; and

WHEREAS, local boards of education are best equipped to understand the balancing act of meeting the community's needs and maximizing student success; and

WHEREAS, restoring local control of school calendars will allow local boards of education to best meet the calendar preferences of the families, educators, and businesses in our community while allowing for innovative experimental approaches to improve student achievement.

Adopted by the Gaston County Board of Education this ___ day of _____, 2019.

Brent Moore, Chairman
Gaston County Board of Education

W. Jeffrey Booker
Superintendent to the Board of Education

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 1/7/2019

Agenda Item Title/Topic: Looking Ahead-Educational Options 2019-2020

Type of Item: Consent Action Information

Main Points:

Academic Services will provide updates on course offerings for students. The educational options will be available to Gaston County families beginning fall 2019.

Fiscal Implications:

N/A

Recommendation:

Review educational options for students beginning fall 2019.

Policy Implications:

N/A

Strategic Goal Alignment:

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

Submitted by: Melissa Wilson Balknight, **Department:** Academic Services
Associate Superintendent of Academic Services