

**Gaston County Schools  
Board of Education  
Monday, August 19, 2019  
Meeting 5:30 p.m.**

**MINUTES**

The Gaston County Board of Education met in a regular session on Monday, August 19, 2019 in the Board Room, 943 Osceola Street, Gastonia, NC. Those Board members in attendance were: Chairman Brent Moore, Vice Chairman Kevin Collier, Dot Cherry, Justin Davis, Lee Dedmon, Dot Guthrie, Steve Hall, Jeff Ramsey, and Terry Usery.

Additional attendees include: Superintendent Dr. W. Jeffrey Booker, Attorney Sonya McGraw, Associate Superintendent Gary Hoskins, Chief Communications Officer Todd Hagans and Board Clerk Dana Luoto.

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

**Invocation**

Superintendent Booker led the invocation.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Superintendent Booker led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Agenda Adoption - Action**

The Board considered Agenda Adoption – Action

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

**Good News – Information**

Superintendent Booker recognized Lauren Dixon, Gaston Early College, who is one of only six recipients of the Cato Excellence in Teaching Award, which is presented by the Arts and Science Council of Charlotte. These annual awards recognize teachers who have distinguished themselves in art, science or history, or who have demonstrated creative infusion of the arts, science or history into the core academic curriculum. Mrs. Dixon teaches biology, physical science and physics and was recognized as one of two winners in the science category.

Mr. Justin Davis presented a Certificate of Recognition to Mrs. Dixon.

Superintendent Booker recognized our Communications Department which has earned two national awards for excellence in school communications and public relations. Last month, the department received two Golden Achievement Awards from the National School Public Relations Association for the “Big 50 Parade” and the “For Your Information: School Bonds 2018” marketing campaign. Gaston County is one of only four school districts in North Carolina to earn a Golden Achievement Award this year. These two national awards are in addition to the 13 state awards that our Communications Department received

earlier this year for excellence in marketing, special events, writing, video production, publications and digital media.

Mrs. Guthrie presented plaques to the Communications Department.

### **Public Expression - Information**

Jim Gallagher  
1340 Bucknell Avenue  
Gastonia, NC  
Re: Tour of GCS Kitchen Facility

### **Approval/Correction of Minutes - Action**

The Board considered Approval of Minutes - Action

Motion to adopt minutes of June 13, 2019 (Selecting Gaston College Board of Trustees Appointment), June 13, 2019 (Regular Meeting) and June 27, 2019 (Special Meeting) as presented was made by Ms. Dot Cherry; seconded by Mr. Jeff Ramsey motion carried unanimously. (9-0)

### **Classroom Moment - Information**

Superintendent Booker recognized Mrs. Carrie Minnich who presented a PowerPoint on Gaining M-Eye Independence. Aria Belton, Jamila Lewis & Osbaldo Trejo briefly shared about their summer enrichment experiences.

(View PowerPoint)

### **Operations Committee Report - Information**

Chairman Moore recognized Mr. Steve Hall of the Operations Committee who provided a summary of topics considered and discussed at the most recent meeting:

- The track at Stanley Middle has been paved, and is waiting to be striped. Sod has been placed on the football field and banks. Grass has been sown on the baseball field and the roof of the dugout has been framed.
- Belmont Middle is progressing as scheduled. Concrete was poured on August 2 for the second floor. Vertical walls have started to go up.
- A current project update spreadsheet was distributed. Current bond projects and updates can be found on the Gaston County School website.
- Aaron Slutsky, Chief Technology Officer, provided updates within the technology department. Technology Support Services (TSS) has finished upgrades from Windows 7 to Windows 10. TSS will be installing battery backups for the school network sites. Toshiba will be replacing all multifunction devices throughout the district.
- Dr. Morgen Houchard, Executive Director of Auxiliary Services, reported there will be 16 safety training sessions for administration and staff to attend. There will not be any changes in lunch prices, but there will be alternative breakfast options for our high school students. We will be receiving 13 new yellow buses from the state as replacements.
- Gary Hoskins, Chief Financial Officer, gave an update on the new law that is requiring school systems to upgrade the computer systems. Recently, a software selection committee met with two vendors that were recommended from DPI. Mr. Hoskins asked for permission to move forward with CherryRoad Technologies. The Committee recommends the Board approve CherryRoad Technologies as the school systems new software vendor.

- The Operations Committee recommends the Board approve the following expenditures over \$100,000: two new 14-passenger mini buses for Special Transportation purposes and to replace obsolete HVAC units at Bessemer City High School.
- A handout with change orders listed was reviewed and recommended for approval.

### **Curriculum & Instruction Committee Report - Information**

Chairman Moore recognized Ms. Dot Cherry of the Curriculum & Instruction Committee who provided a summary of topics considered and discussed at the most recent meeting:

- Committee received an update on the Alternative Assessments Model used for Warlick Academy and Webb Street School. The model collects various data points to evaluate the instructional programs for these schools.
- Staff shared information on the Modern Learning platform being used in all regular K-5 classrooms. The elementary team is using this platform to modernize the learning environments.
- The Read-to-Achieve summer reading camp partnered with the Gaston County Public Library to serve an average of 820 students. 88% of third graders maintained or improved their reading levels.
- Middle Schools have already started transition camps for rising sixth graders. The camps started on July 30 and will conclude on August 22.
- Staff has worked closely with principals who will have a new choice program in their schools beginning fall 2019. Student Support Services has assisted principals with hiring appropriate staff, professional development and securing resources.
- Updates were given on assignment and staff change within Academic Services.
- The Department for Exceptional Children shared an update on the nursing services provided for students with special medical conditions.

The Committee's next meeting will be September 9, 2019 at 12:00 noon.

### **Back -to-School Update - Information**

Chairman Moore recognized Mr. Todd Hagans who presented a PowerPoint on Back-to-School Update.

(View PowerPoint)

### **New Schools Construction Update - Information**

Chairman Moore recognized Mr. Gary Hoskins who presented a PowerPoint on New Schools Construction Update.

(View PowerPoint)

### **Out-of-County Tuition - Action**

Chairman Moore recognized Mr. Gary Hoskins who gave an update on out-of-county tuition.

Every year we have students who attend Gaston County Schools that do not reside in Gaston County and some that do not live in North Carolina. The recommended tuition rate for 2019-2020 is \$1,578 per pupil. Out of state students would also be required to pay an additional \$5,873 to reimburse Gaston County Schools for the state per pupil appropriation.

Mr. Hoskins requested approval of the 2019-2020 out-of-county tuition rate for GCS students domiciled outside of Gaston County and for GCS students domiciled outside of North Carolina.

### **Motion**

The Motion was made by Mr. Kevin Collier; seconded by Mr. Lee Dedmon that the Board **Approve the 2019-2020 tuition rate of \$1,578 for GCS students domiciled outside of Gaston County and an additional \$5,873 for GCS students domiciled outside of North Carolina.**

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

### **Consent Agenda – Action**

The Board considered the Consent Agenda; (A) Recommended Personnel; (B) Budget Amendments & Budget Transfers; (C) Construction/Repair Change Orders; (D) Homeschool Dual Enrollment for Athletics Policy #3103; (E) Alternative Assessments for Warlick Academy & Webb Street; (F) Official Depository Designation; (G) Appointment of School Treasurers; (H) Purchase Two 14-Passenger Mini-Buses; (I) Replace HVAC Units at Bessemer City High School; (J) Contracts – Modern Teacher Digital Platform Contract, Nursing Services Contract and CherryRoad Technologies.

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 commended senior staff and all employees for their diligent efforts this summer. Superintendent Booker also thanked the Board of Education for their support as we move forward into a new school year. Tomorrow, we will have our annual professional development mini-conferences for teachers and as part of the mini-conferences, we will have our back-to-school Convocation for employees. We look forward to having any Board Members that can join us for Convocation.

Superintendent Booker reported this Thursday at 10:00 a.m. local law enforcement agencies from across the county will conduct a press conference at Robinson Elementary to promote the importance of traffic safety, especially during back-to-school time.

Superintendent Booker reported we had an excellent ceremony last Wednesday at W.A. Bess Elementary to announce the North Carolina A-Plus School distinction. W.A. Bess is the first A-Plus School for Gaston County. The A stands for arts and the plus means the adding or infusing of the arts across the curriculum.

### **Closed Session**

Chairman Moore 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.

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

The Board went into Closed Session at 6:38 p.m.

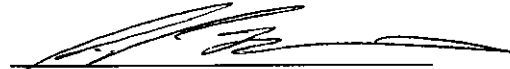
The Board returned to Open Session at 7:05 p.m.

**Adjournment**

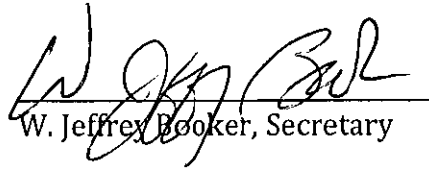
All business having been conducted, Motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Lee Dedmon; seconded by Mr. Kevin Collier motion carried unanimously. (9-0)

The Board Meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Approved:



Brent Moore, Chairman  
[Corporate Seal]



W. Jeffrey Booker, Secretary

Date Approved:

9/16/19

# Classroom Moment

August 19, 2019

Celebrate! Gaston County Schools



# Gaining M-Eye Independence

Celebrate! Gaston County Schools





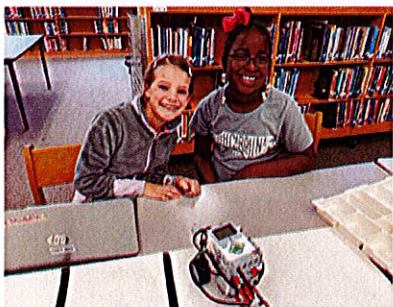
Celebrate! Gaston County Schools



# Summer Imaginarium

Celebrate! Gaston County Schools





Celebrate! Gaston County Schools

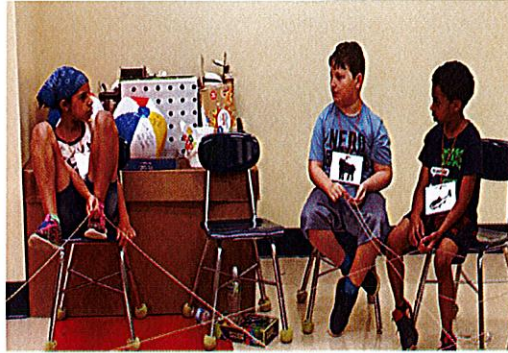


# Innovation Station

Celebrate! Gaston County Schools







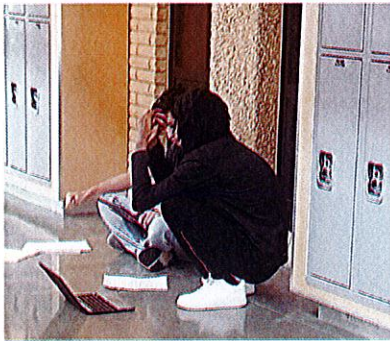
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# College Prep

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# Questions?

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**Gaston County Schools**

# **Back-To-School UPDATE**

**Gaston County Board of Education  
August 19, 2019**

**Celebrate! Gaston County Schools**



## **This Week ...**

**Orientation/Open House Events**

**Registration**

**Preparing Classrooms**

**Professional Development**

**Mini-Conferences/Convocation**

**Celebrate! Gaston County Schools**



**First Day of School**

**Monday,**

**August 26**

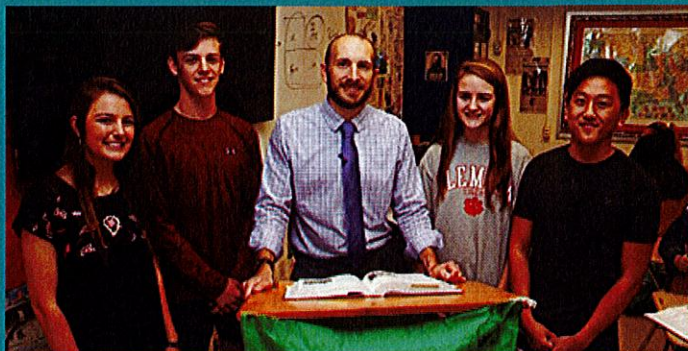
Celebrate! Gaston County Schools 



**31,000 Students**

Pre-Kindergarten through High School

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**1,900 Teachers**  
approximately 90 are first-year teachers

Celebrate! Gaston County Schools



## Teacher Vacancies

**22**

Principals and Human Resources  
staff are working diligently

Celebrate! Gaston County Schools



## Schools with New Principals

- Chapel Grove Elementary
- W.C. Friday Middle School
- Highland School of Technology
- McAdenville Elementary
- Page Primary
- Sadler Elementary
- Warlick Academy

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## Back-To-School Update



## Academics

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# New Academy Programs

- Career
- Collegiate Prep
- Health Sciences
- Leadership
- Public Service
- Technology & Industrial Engineering

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 <p>Gaston County Schools <b>Career</b> Academy</p>	 <p>Gaston County Schools <b>Leadership</b> Academy</p>
 <p>Gaston County Schools <b>Collegiate Prep</b> Academy</p>	 <p>Gaston County Schools <b>Public Service</b> Academy</p>
 <p>Gaston County Schools <b>Health Sciences</b> Academy</p>	 <p>Gaston County Schools <b>Technology and Industrial Engineering</b> Academy</p>

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Gifted and Talented Academy  
Pleasant Ridge Elementary



STEAM Academy  
Stanley Middle School



Gaston County  
Virtual Academy

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## Back-To-School Update



## School Safety

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## Back-To-School Update



## School Bond Projects

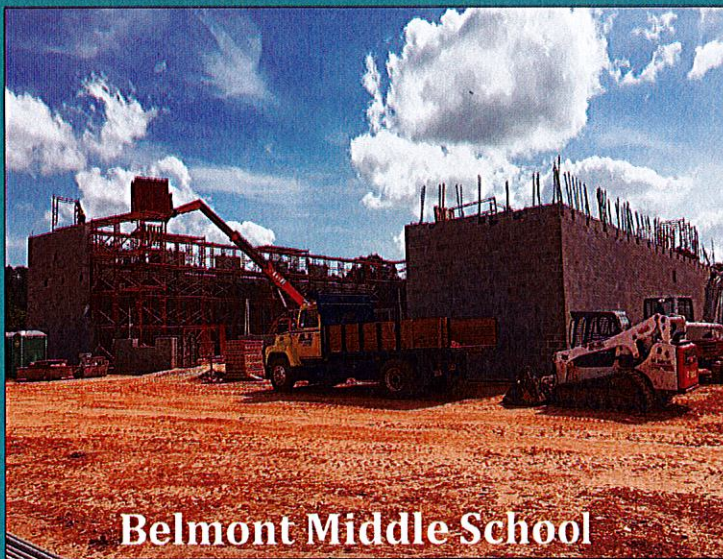
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# Belmont Middle School

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# Belmont Middle School

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## School Bond Projects

- H.H. Beam Elementary
- Bessemer City Primary
- Carr Elementary
- John Chavis Middle School
- Grier Middle School
- Holbrook Middle School

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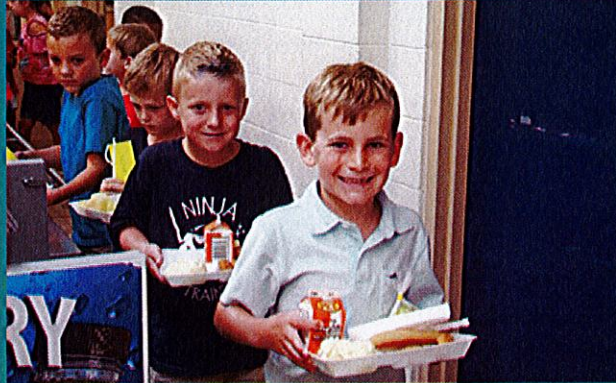
## School Bond Projects

- New Hope Elementary
- North Gaston High School
- Pinewood Elementary
- South Point High School
- Southwest Middle School
- Webb Street School

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## Back-To-School Update



# School Nutrition

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## Back-To-School Update



# Bus Transportation

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Back-To-School Update

**Strategic Plan**  
**Career and Technical**  
**Education**  
**Technology**

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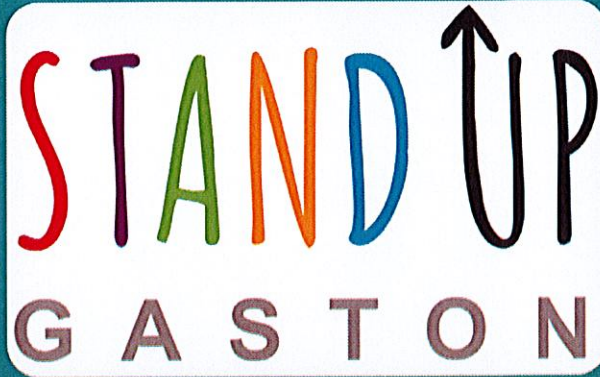
Back-To-School Update

**School Mentors**  
**Business and**  
**Community Partners**

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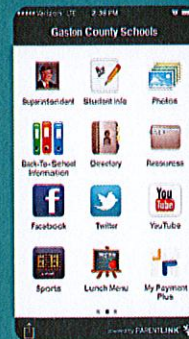
## Back-To-School Update



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## Back-To-School Update



[www.gaston.k12.nc.us](http://www.gaston.k12.nc.us)

# Stay Connected

Celebrate! Gaston County Schools



**Gaston County Schools**

**Have a great  
school year!**

**Back-To-School Update  
Gaston County Board of Education**

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# Board of Education Meeting



August 19, 2019  
New Schools Construction Update



# Stanley Middle



**Celebrate!** Gaston County Schools



# Stanley Middle



**Celebrate!** Gaston County Schools



# Stanley Middle



**Celebrate!** Gaston County Schools



# Stanley Middle



**Celebrate!** Gaston County Schools



# Stanley Middle



**Celebrate!** Gaston County Schools



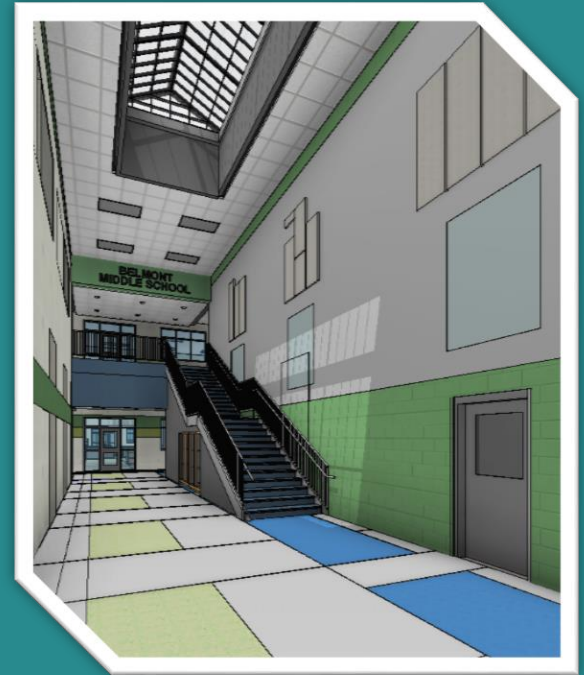
# Stanley Middle



**Celebrate!** Gaston County Schools



# Belmont Middle



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# Belmont Middle

- May 25, 2018 – Design Development Package
- June 28, 2018 – 50% Construction Documents Package
- August 24, 2018 – 100% Construction Documents Package
- September 02, 2018 – Drawings Issued for Bid
- October 02, 2018 – Bid Opening
  
- October 30, 2018 – County Bond Sale Date
  
- December 2018 – Site Work Begins
- Spring 2021 – Construction Complete
- Spring 2021 – Begin Move In Process
- Summer 2021 – Open for the 2021-2022 School Year
  
- 24 Month Construction Schedule



# Belmont Middle



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# Belmont Middle



**Celebrate!** Gaston County Schools



# Belmont Middle



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# Belmont Middle



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# Discussion



Stanley Middle



Belmont Middle