

Gaston County Schools
Board of Education
Monday, February 18, 2019
Meeting 5:30 p.m.

Minutes

The Gaston County Board of Education met in a regular session on Monday, February 18, 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, Steve Hall, Jeff Ramsey, and Terry Usery. Dot Guthrie (absent)

Additional attendees include: Superintendent W. Jeffrey Booker, Attorney Sonya McGraw, Associate Superintendents Dr. Melissa Balknight, Gary Hoskins, Assistant Superintendent Cindee Matson, 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 Ms. Dot Cherry; seconded by Mr. Justin Davis motion carried unanimously. (8-0)

Good News – Information

Superintendent Booker recognized Marcus Mauney from Hunter Huss High School. Marcus will be attending Yale University in the fall. Marcus has also signed a National Letter of Intent to play football at Yale.

Superintendent Booker recognized our winners in the Regional Science and Engineering Fair that took place at UNC-Charlotte earlier this month. These students will represent Gaston County in the North Carolina Science and Engineering Fair in Raleigh in March.

Winners advancing to the state level are:

Avery Davis, from Belmont Middle School won the UNCC Bioinformatics Award and first place in the Biological Sciences B category for her project titled "How Sweet is Your Tooth?"

Mr. Kevin Collier presented Avery a Certificate of Recognition.

Holly Mullen and Christina Rodgers from East Gaston High School won the Jain Design Studio Award, the Award for Study in Vitro Biology, and first place in the Biological Sciences A category for their project titled "The Effects of Food Diets on the Breeding Rate of *Blaptica dupia*," which is known as the orange-spotted roach.

Mr. Kevin Collier presented Holly and Christina a Certificate of Recognition.

Hannah Murrow and Kennedy Ballard from East Gaston High School won second place in the Biological Sciences A category for their project "Effectiveness of Dog Toothpaste on Bacteria in a Dog's Mouth."

Mr. Kevin Collier presented Hannah and Kennedy a Certificate of Recognition.

Mackenzie Fallin from Ashbrook High School won third place in the Earth and Environmental Science category and won an honorable mention for the American Chemical Society Award for her project titled "Eco-Friendly Detergents vs. Regular Detergents: Effects on the environment."

Mr. Kevin Collier presented Mackenzie a Certificate of Recognition.

Superintendent Booker recognized Ms. Delta Sanders from Elements of Empowerment. Recently, Elements of Empowerment worked to bring the traveling exhibit, "The Long March: Herblock and the Civil Rights Era," to Gaston County, and the exhibit has been on display at the main branch library in Gastonia. As part of the exhibit, they received copies of the autobiography, "Herblock: A Cartoonist Life," which brings attention to the life and work of political cartoonist Herb Block. Ms. Sanders and the Elements of Empowerment organization are donating a copy of Mr. Block's autobiography to each of our high school libraries.

Mr. Terry Usery presented Ms. Sanders a Certificate of Recognition.

Public Expression – Information

Darcy Bauer
2540 Glyncastle Way
Gastonia, NC
RE: ECE in Public Schools

(Although Ms. Bauer completed the Request to Speak Form, she did not appear at the meeting.)

Approval/Correction of Minutes – Action

The Board considered Approval of Minutes – Action

Motion to adopt minutes of January 7, 2019 and January 18, 2019 as presented was made by Mr. Lee Dedmon; seconded by Mr. Jeff Ramsey motion carried unanimously. (8-0)

School Board Recognition Month – Information

Chairman Moore recognized Mr. Todd Hagans who expressed appreciation to School Board Members in recognition of School Board Recognition Month. Each year, we take pride in recognizing and honoring the citizens who serve on the Gaston County Board of Education. This year to help us recognize and pay tribute to our Board of Education Members and Superintendent Booker, we chose an elementary school for each Board Member and our Superintendent and had a class at the school “adopt” each Board Member. Representatives from the schools are here to present a framed picture of the class to each Board Member and our Superintendent along with a special “thank-you” card.

To recognize Chairman **Brent Moore**, who represents the Crowders Mountain Township, is Brayden Falls who is a student in Lacey Walters’ third grade class at Bessemer City Central Elementary School. With them is their assistant principal Patrick Watson.

To recognize Vice Chairman **Kevin Collier**, who represents the Riverbend Township, is Elizabeth Lopez who is a student in Dolly Williams’ second grade class at Rankin Elementary School. With them is their principal Donna Kelly.

To recognize **Lee Dedmon**, who represents the Gastonia Township, is Ragan Robinson who is a student in Kimberly Luna-Jones’ first grade class at Woodhill Elementary School. With them is their principal Loretta Reed.

To recognize **Justin Davis**, who represents the South Point Township, are Olivia Teeters and Henry Davis who are students in Amy Brown’s fourth grade class at Belmont Central Elementary School. With this is their principal Phyllis Whitworth.

To recognize **Terry Usery**, who represents the Cherryville Township, is Ella Blake who is a student in Leigh Herman’s third grade class at Tryon Elementary School. With them is their school counselor Millicent Heavner.

To recognize **Steve Hall**, who represents the Dallas Township, is Ryder Cottingham who is a student in Samatha Wong’s second grade class at Carr Elementary School. With them is their principal Rebekah Duncan.

Mr. Booker accepted for Mrs. Guthrie.

To recognize **Dot Guthrie**, who represents the Gastonia Township, is Harrison Davis who is a student in Tonya Dye's second grade class at Sherwood Elementary School. With them is their principal Kristie Gornto.

To recognize **Jeff Ramsey**, who is an At-Large Member of the Board of Education, is Jonah George who is a student in Sangeeta Gupta's kindergarten class at New Hope Elementary School. With them is their principal Lynn Whiteside.

To recognize **Dot Cherry**, who is an At-Large Member of the Board of Education, is Tiyannah France who is a student in Trevor Dunlap's fourth grade class at Pleasant Ridge Elementary School. With them is their assistant principal Amy Smith.

To recognize **Superintendent Booker**, are Riley Long and Piper Hampton who are students in Lorna Ross' third grade class at Brookside Elementary School. With them is their principal Chad Hovis.

We would like to thank all of the children for being here this evening and a special thank you to their parents, teachers, assistant principals and principals for helping with our Board of Education Recognition.

Classroom Moment – Information

Superintendent Booker recognized Dr. Cristi Bostic who introduced Megan Euliss third grade teacher at Sherwood Elementary. Ms. Euliss presented a PowerPoint on PBIS (Positive Behavioral Intervention and Supports) in Action. Students Giselle Barr (2nd grade) and Stephen Daniel (5th grade) shared their experiences with PBIS at Sherwood Elementary.

(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 final punch list for Phase 1 at Stanley Middle is almost complete. The one year walk-through with the architect, engineer and owner will take place this month. Phase 2, which includes the athletic fields, is projected to be completed in May 2019.
- The grading and clearing is well underway at Belmont Middle. Beam Construction has started pouring footings in Area B.
- Current capital projects were discussed. Projects funded with the new bond dollars include roof replacements at two schools and life safety upgrades at six schools.

- Staffing levels in the Facilities Department were discussed. It was noted that a number of staff members in the department have received their certifications and/or licenses in their respective areas.
- Staff provided information to show the disposition of surplus items from July 2018 through December 2018.
- The Committee voted to recommend Board approval of the three year audit contract with Anderson Smith & Wike and the annual renewal of Microsoft licenses for the district.
- There were no change orders to review.

The next committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 4, 2019 at 4:00 p.m. in the Central Office Board Room.

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:

- Staff shared information on House Bill 146, cursive writing and multiplication. Gaston County Schools is in compliance with House Bill 146.
- Gaston County Schools is partnering with East Carolina University to provide a Teaching Children in Poverty certificate.
- The ASPIRE after school program now has sites at H.H. Beam Elementary (year 1) and Pleasant Ridge Elementary (year 2). Currently, combined student enrollment for ASPIRE is 250. Last year, 91% of the students at the Pleasant Ridge site showed growth in math and/or reading throughout the year.
- Gaston County Schools offers five courses in middle school that count toward high school credits.
- The window for regular transfers and school choice transfers opened on January 28 and will close on February 28, 2019. There is a School Choice Information Session on Monday, February 25, at Gaston College from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.
- The Academic Services summer 2019 calendar for professional development has been shared with all principals. Professional development for teachers and other staff will occur from June through August.

EOG/EOC Summer School – Information

Chairman Moore introduced Dr. Melissa Balknight who presented a PowerPoint on EOG/EOC Summer School.

(View PowerPoint)

School Choice Update – Information

Chairman Moore introduced Dr. Melissa Balknight who gave an update on School Choice. Highlights included:

Student Services is currently accepting applications for regular transfers and school choice transfers until February 28. The process is going well and we have had many to apply and the number continues to grow each day. Today is the first day for kindergarten registration and we have had 185 kindergarten students register via website or in person. We have extended our hours this week to 7 p.m. so parents can come to Forest Heights if needed. We also have a kiosk at the mall until the end of the month Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. with School Choice information. Someone will be available at the booth during operating hours. If parents have any questions concerning the sign-up process for School Choice, we offer 24 hour customer service. Parents can also send e-mails to schoolchoice@gaston.k12.nc.us and a reply will be sent within 24 hours.

Dr. Melissa Balknight showed the I Choose video.

Consent Agenda – Action

The Board considered the Consent Agenda; (A) Recommended Personnel; (B) Budget Amendments & Budget Transfers; (C) Construction/Repair Change Orders; (D) Annual Microsoft Licensing Agreement; (E) Eligibility for Transfer Athletes – Policy 4316; (F) Contracts – Selection of Independent Auditor for FY 2019-2021

Motion to adopt the Consent Agenda as presented was made by Ms. Dot Cherry; seconded by Mr. Kevin Collier Motion carried unanimously. (8-0)

Superintendent's Comments

Superintendent Booker reported our 50th anniversary exhibit that highlights the sports history of Gaston County Schools will be on display at the Gaston County Museum in Dallas until March 9.

Superintendent Booker reported Thursday, February 21, is the reception for the Gaston County Senior Art Show in the Jeanne Rauch Gallery at Gaston College. The reception is from 5:30 until 7:30 p.m. with the awards presentation at 6:00 p.m. The artwork will be on display until March 22.

Superintendent Booker reported the deadline to apply for a school choice program is Thursday, February 28 at 5:00 p.m. That date is also the deadline for parents to submit a school transfer application. You can apply for a school transfer and also apply for the school choice program by visiting our website. Kindergarten registration started today and will continue through this week. Parents can register one of two ways – online by going to our website or in person at our Student Assignment Office at the former Forest Heights

Elementary School in Gastonia. Forest Heights will be open this week from 8:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m., and on Saturday, February 23, from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Children who will be five years old on or before August 31, 2019 are eligible to start kindergarten this fall.

Superintendent Booker reported there will be two recognition programs that will air on Channel 21 in the next few weeks. We held a reception on February 6 to honor and recognize 12 of our outstanding educators who achieved National Board Certification for 2018 and 2019. Earning National Board Certification is very difficult and we are proud of the 12 teachers who have gone above and beyond expectations to earn the national certification. The National Board Certified Teachers Reception will air the week of February 25 at various times and then the following week, beginning March 4, we will air our School Accreditation Presentation. Last Wednesday, our principals gathered in the Board Room for a ceremony that was recorded especially for Channel 21. The program brings attention to the accreditation process that we were going through at this time last year and it gives us an opportunity to recognize each of our schools as being accredited as a quality school.

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. Steve Hall; seconded by Ms. Dot Cherry motion carried unanimously. (8-0)

The Board went into Closed Session at 6:42 p.m.

The Board returned to Open Session at 7:44 p.m.

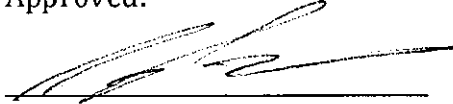
Chairman Moore wished Mr. Kevin Collier and Superintendent Booker a "Happy Birthday".

Adjournment

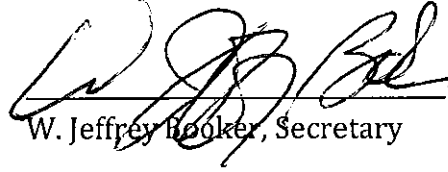
All business having been conducted, Motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Lee Dedmon; seconded by Mr. Kevin Collier motion carried unanimously. (8-0)

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

Approved:



Brent Moore, Chairman
[Corporate Seal]


W. Jeffrey Booker, Secretary

Date Approved:

3/18/19

Sherwood Elementary: PBIS in Action



Celebrate! Gaston County Schools



The PBIS Shift

"As an outsider coming in-- the biggest difference I notice is how the teachers (on 3rd grade hall) and other random staff keep their voice calm, in control, fair, unbiased." -- Pam Martin

"I like that I am rewarded for showing good behavior; before, teachers just got upset when people were doing the wrong things. Now I get recognized for doing the right thing."
-- Noah Doyne, 5th Grade

RAMS Expectations

Responsibility

Attitude


Manners

Safety

RAMS Expectations

- Posted in all school areas
- Everyone knows how to be successful in each area of school.

Sherwood RAMS
Are Motivated To Succeed



	Classroom Expectations
R Responsibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Take ownership of your actions• Take care of classroom materials• Keep your workspace neat• Do your best on all assignments
A Positive Attitude	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Arrive ready to learn• Participate in classroom activities
M Manners	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Respect others and all property• Allow others to learn• Be cooperative
S Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Use materials and technology for their intended purpose• Walk at all times• Honor personal space• Keep hands, feet, and objects to yourself• Follow all adult directions

Rewarding Positive Behavior

- RAM Tickets
- Earn Prizes and Privileges





RAMS Store



Managed by the EC Specialized Classroom

Celebrate! Gaston County Schools



Positive Office Referrals

- Submitted to the principal
- Picture displayed in classroom



Classroom Interventions



Mrs. Davis' (5th Grade) "Cool Off" Corner: she keeps fidgets & coloring books nearby to help students cool off when they are upset.

Classroom Interventions



Christi Jolley & Emanuel are student/teacher buddies. She checks in on Emanuel to make sure he is on track to succeed!

Classroom Interventions

Sherwood teachers are creative about classroom interventions. Examples: emotional journals, fidgets, & kinesthetic sand.



Consistency is Key!

Everyone follows the same rules, expectations and procedures allowing students to be successful!



Sherwood Students

- Giselle Barr (2nd Grade)
- Stephen Daniel (5th Grade)

Questions?



EOG/EOC Summer School

Board of Education
February 18, 2019

Celebrate! Gaston County Schools



EOG/EOC Summer School

Testing Areas

- 4th - 8th Grade Reading
- 5th and 8th Grade Science
- Biology
- English 2

Questions?

