

Gaston County Schools  
Board of Education  
Joint Board of Education/Board of Commissioner Meeting  
Wednesday, March 13, 2019  
5:00 p.m.

**Minutes**

The Gaston County Board of Education met in a special meeting on Wednesday, March 13, 2019 at Pleasant Ridge Elementary School, 1260 Floyd Lane, Gastonia, NC. Board Members in attendance were: Chairman Brent Moore, Dot Cherry, Justin Davis, Lee Dedmon, Dot Guthrie, Steve Hall, Jeff Ramsey and Terry Usery.

(Kevin Collier – Vice Chairman absent)

Additional attendees from Gaston County Board of Education 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.

Attendees from Gaston County Board of Commissioners: Chairman Tracy Philbeck, Jack Brown, Allen Fraley, and Ronnie Worley.

(Chad Brown – Vice Chairman, Bob Hovis and Tom Keigher absent)

Additional attendees from Gaston County Board of Commissioners: County Manager Earl Mathers, County Attorney Charles Moore, Interim Asst. County Manager Pam Overcash, Interim Asst. County Manager Matt Rhoten and Clerk to the Board Donna Buff.

Chairman Brent Moore called the meeting to order at 5:07 p.m. and welcomed everyone

Chairman Brent Moore introduced Mr. Glenn Cook, Principal of Pleasant Ridge Elementary School, who briefly reported that Pleasant Ridge Elementary offers 56 enrichment clusters to students every Friday. Because of this investment, Pleasant Ridge has seen a huge achievement increase of 21% over three years and has exceeded growth two years in a row.

Mr. Cook introduced the drum line, one of the many opportunities offered at Pleasant Ridge Elementary, who gave a short performance.

Chairman Moore introduced Mr. Gary Hoskins who presented a PowerPoint on Gaston County Schools' Budget Request FY 2019-2020.

(View PowerPoint.)

Discussion occurred.

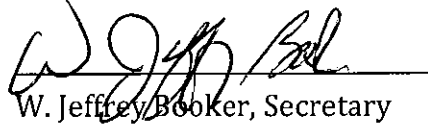
Chairman Moore thanked everyone for coming and we look forward to working with you in the future. Chairman Moore announced the New Belmont Middle School Groundbreaking Ceremony on Monday, March 25, 2019 at 4:00 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 5:51 p.m.

Approved:



Brent Moore, Chairman  
[Corporate Seal]



W. Jeffrey Booker, Secretary

Date Approved:

4/15/19

# Joint Meeting of the Gaston County Board of Commissioners and the Board of Education



Pleasant Ridge Elementary School  
March 13, 2019

**Celebrate!** Gaston County Schools



# Collaborative Successes



**Celebrate!** Gaston County Schools



# Collaborative Successes

- 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration



Celebrate! Gaston County Schools



# Collaborative Successes

- Safe Schools



**Celebrate!** Gaston County Schools



# Collaborative Successes

- New school buildings

**Pleasant Ridge Elementary School**  
(opened August 2017)



**Stanley Middle School**  
(opened March 2018)

# Collaborative Successes

- 2018 School Bonds



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# Collaborative Successes

- **2018 School Bonds**



- **Replace Belmont Middle School**
- **Roofing**
- **HVAC**
- **Life Safety**
- **Lighting**
- **Etc.**

**Celebrate!** Gaston County Schools



# Collaborative Successes

- Teacher Supplements

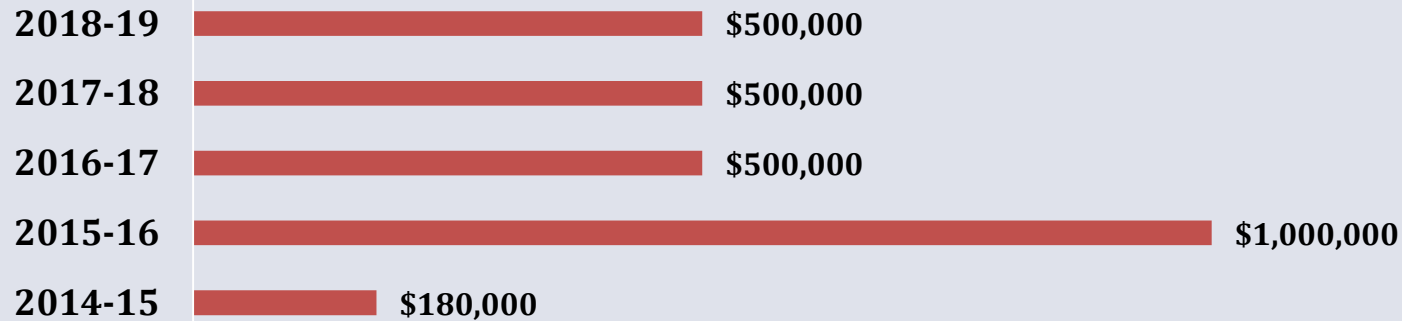


**Celebrate!** Gaston County Schools

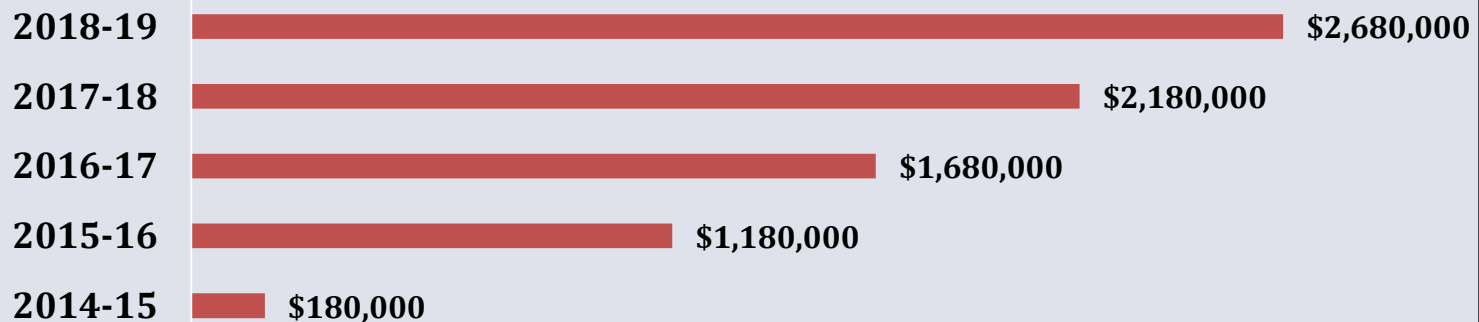


# Collaborative Successes

## District Increases



## Cumulative District Increases



# Collaborative Successes

- **Increased Proficiency and Growth**

## Proficiency:

Since 2013-2014, Gaston's proficiency rate has gone up almost six points, increasing from 50.2 to 56.0.

## Growth:

Last year Gaston County had 87.8 percent of its schools (43 of 49) to meet or exceed academic growth expectations. *This was the highest growth rate by any of the 10 largest school districts.*



# Collaborative Successes

- Increased Proficiency and Growth

School Name	Exceeded	Met	Not Met	Total Exceeded and Met	Rank
<i>State of North Carolina</i>	<b>26.70%</b>	<b>46.00%</b>	<b>27.30%</b>	<b>72.70%</b>	
<b>Gaston County Schools</b>	<b>46.00%</b>	<b>40.00%</b>	<b>14.00%</b>	<b>86.00%</b>	<b>1</b>
Cabarrus County Schools	36.80%	47.40%	15.80%	84.20%	2
Cumberland County Schools	33.70%	45.80%	20.50%	79.50%	3
Durham Public Schools	39.20%	37.30%	23.50%	76.50%	4
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools	30.40%	45.00%	24.60%	75.40%	5
Guilford County Schools	23.30%	50.90%	25.90%	74.10%	6
Forsyth County Schools	25.00%	47.20%	27.80%	72.20%	7
Union County Public Schools	30.00%	40.00%	30.00%	70.00%	8
Wake County Schools	14.80%	46.70%	38.50%	61.50%	9
Johnston County Schools	2.20%	26.70%	71.10%	28.90%	10

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# Collaborative Successes

- Two “A” Schools



Highland School of Technology

Gaston Early College



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# Collaborative Successes

- District Wide Accreditation



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# Collaborative Successes

- Increased Technology



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# Collaborative Successes

- Commissioners School

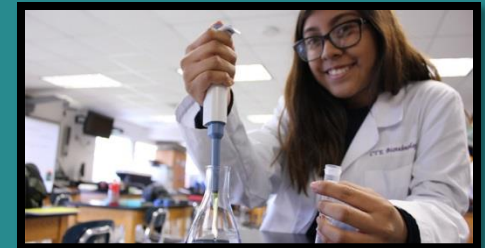


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# Collaborative Successes

- Hunter Huss Career Academy



# Collaborative Successes

- Cherryville High School Ambulance



# Collaborative Successes

- Career and Technical Education (CTE) – Middle Schools



# Collaborative Successes

- Strong Educational Partnerships



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# Collaborative Successes

- Robotics Program



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# Collaborative Successes

- Student Scholarships



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# Collaborative Successes

- Strong Graduation Rate



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# Primary Challenges



# Competitive Teacher Supplements

LEA - Neighboring (ADM)	Average Supplement
Charlotte-Mecklenburg (147,359)	\$ 7,159
Union (41,408)	4,524
State Average	4,337
Catawba (16,181)	3,755
Cabarrus (32,476)	3,140
Lincoln (11,318)	2,894
Iredell-Statesville (20,436)	2,853
Rowan-Salisbury (19,144)	2,831
<b>Gaston (31,580)</b>	<b>2,826</b>
Cleveland (14,581)	1,884

Source: DPI FY 2017-2018 Table 20 for average supplement  
 DPI FY 2017-2018 Table 10 for ADM



# Enhancing School Choice

Funding for expanded school choice opportunities:

**High School:** Academy of Health Sciences  
T&I Engineering Academy  
College Prep Academy  
Leadership Academy

**Middle School:** T&I Engineering Academy  
Career Academy  
Leadership Academy

**Elementary:** Leadership Academy

# Enhancing School Choice

## SCHOOL CHOICE

*in Gaston County Schools*

Gaston County Schools is launching new school choice Academy programs for the 2019-2020 academic year. The additional programs will triple our number of school choice/magnet school options for students and parents.

### New Academy Programs

#### ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Leadership Academy @ Costner Elementary

#### MIDDLE SCHOOL

Career Academy @ Southwest Middle

Career Academy @ York Chester Middle

Gifted and Talented Academy  
@ Cramerton Middle

Leadership Academy @ W.C. Friday Middle

Public Service Academy @ John Chavis Middle

Technology and Industrial Engineering  
Academy @ Bessemer City Middle

#### HIGH SCHOOL

Career Academy @ Hunter Huss High School

Collegiate Prep Academy @ Forestview  
High School

Leadership Academy @ North Gaston  
High School

Health Sciences Academy @ East Gaston  
High School

Public Service Academy @ Cherryville  
High School

Technology and Industrial Engineering  
Academy @ Bessemer City High School

### Existing Choice Programs

In addition to our new Academy programs, we have experienced great success with our six existing school choice/magnet schools.

#### ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Hawley Nest STEAM Academy  
Gifted and Talented Academy  
@ Pleasant Ridge Elementary School

#### MIDDLE SCHOOL

STEAM Academy @ Stanley Middle  
Gaston County Virtual Academy

#### HIGH SCHOOL

Gaston Early College High School  
Highland School of Technology

### Who can apply?

Students who live in Gaston County and will be in kindergarten, sixth grade, or ninth grade for the 2019-2020 year may apply. Applications accepted January 28 until February 28 at 5:00 p.m. Students who are in Gaston County Schools now as well as students who are enrolled in a private, charter, or home school may apply.

### Get More Information

Visit the Gaston County Schools website: [www.gaston.k12.nc.us/schoolchoice](http://www.gaston.k12.nc.us/schoolchoice). If you have questions, email [schoolchoice@gaston.k12.nc.us](mailto:schoolchoice@gaston.k12.nc.us).



Gaston County Schools  
**Career**  
Academy



Gaston County Schools  
**Collegiate Prep**  
Academy



Gaston County Schools  
**Health Sciences**  
Academy



Gaston County Schools  
**Leadership**  
Academy



Gaston County Schools  
**Public Service**  
Academy



Gaston County Schools  
**Technology and Industrial  
Engineering**  
Academy

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# Technology Replacement

- 31,000 student devices at \$180 per device
- Refresh rate of four years
- Switches and wireless access devices
- Updated software and access to digital resources



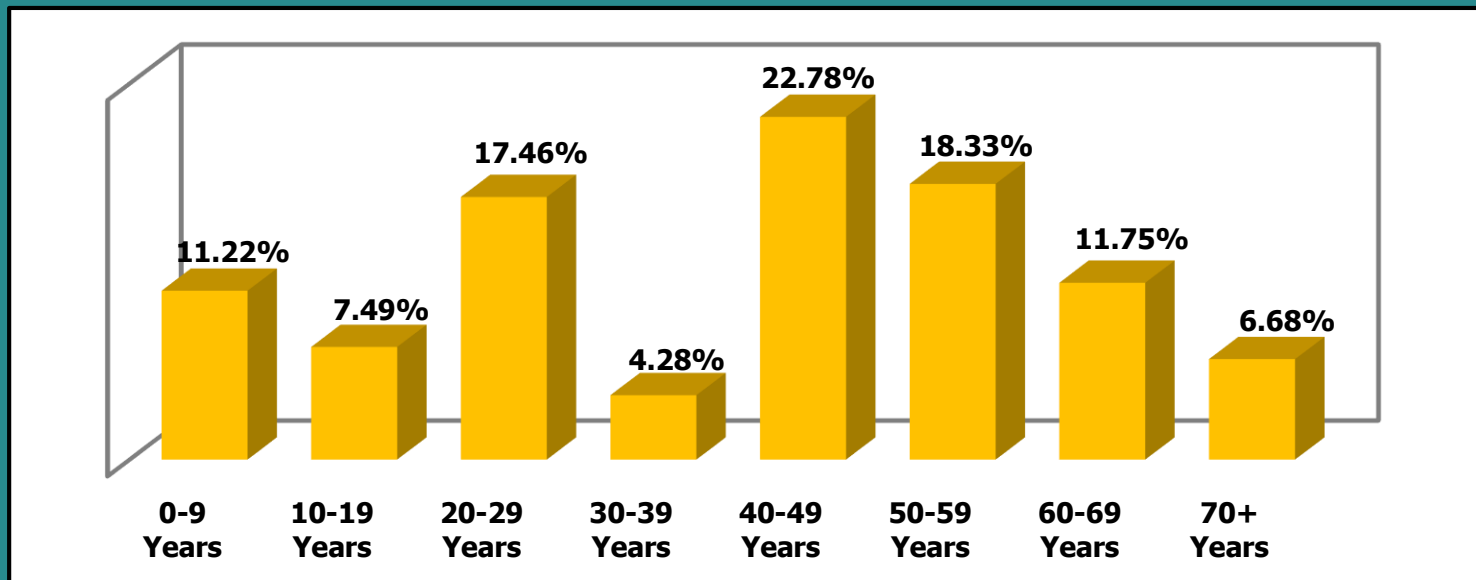
# Capital Needs

- Annual capital maintenance includes: HVAC, roof systems, plumbing, electrical, life safety systems, parking lots, etc.
- Annual County capital allowance of \$1.2M or \$0.25 per square foot



# Capital Needs

- 54 schools and 11 support locations
- 5.2+ million sq. feet of maintained space
- Age of buildings:



# Conclusion

- GCS Budget proposal will be submitted by May 15<sup>th</sup>
- Budget proposal will include additional funding request for:
  - Salary, benefits and supplement adjustments
  - Expanded choice opportunities
  - Technology replacements and updates
  - Other inflationary adjustments
  - Capital maintenance and improvements



# Thank you for all you do for the children of Gaston County



**Celebrate!** Gaston County Schools

