

**Gaston County Schools
Board of Education
Monday, April 20, 2020
Meeting 3:00 p.m.**

MINUTES

The Gaston County Board of Education met in a regular session on Monday, April 20, 2020 in the Board Room, 943 Osceola Street, Gastonia, NC. The 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 Superintendents Melissa Balknight, Gary Hoskins, Chief Communications Officer Todd Hagans, Administrative Assistant Andrea Stephens and Board Clerk Dana Luoto.

Chairman Moore called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m. and welcomed everyone. The Board of Education meeting was held electronically to honor social distancing requirements related to the coronavirus pandemic.

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. Steve Hall; seconded Mr. Lee Dedmon; Motion carried unanimously. (9-0)

Good News – Information

Typically, we open each Board Meeting with “good news” about our schools, students and employees. While due to circumstances surrounding the COVID -19 pandemic, we are unable to have appearances of guests we still have students worthy of recognition this afternoon. Superintendent Booker shared the following items of good news:

Superintendent Booker congratulated Christian Pinto, South Point High School senior, who was named QuestBridge Scholar in the Class of 2020. Through the QuestBridge program, Christian received a full-tuition scholarship to attend Washington and Lee University in Virginia.

Superintendent Booker congratulated Colton Ray and Dylan Roddey, North Gaston High School students, who were hired as full-time employees at GSM Services after completing a successful internship with the company. This is the result of our Career and Technical Education program and how it prepares students for the workforce.

Superintendent Booker reported that Webb Street School hosted its fifth annual Art of Fashion Show and raised more than \$17,000 for the school's gymnasium renovation. More than 50 students participated in the event as models along with professional models and fashion designers. This year's theme was "Night Circus" and the event was a great success.

Superintendent Booker congratulated Mary Elizabeth Martin, Stuart W. Cramer High School senior, who earned a perfect score of 800 on the reading portion and a 750 on the math portion of the SAT. In addition, Mary Elizabeth earned finalist status from the National Merit Foundation and is now eligible for a full-ride scholarship to the University of Alabama.

Superintendent Booker congratulated Abigail Stephens, Stanley Middle School sixth grader, who placed first in the Environmental Science category at the North Carolina Student Academy of Science Fair. Abigail met with the science fair judges through a Zoom conference call.

Public Expression – Information

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, public comment was accepted via e-mail by noon on April 20, 2020. A link was provided on the posted agenda for public comment submission.

No one submitted public comments.

Approval/Correction of Minutes – Action

The Board considered Approval of Minutes – Action

Motion to adopt minutes of March 16, 2020 — Regular Meeting and March 31, 2020 — Emergency Meeting as presented was made by Mr. Jeff Ramsey; seconded by Mr. Steve Hall; Motion carried unanimously. (9-0)

Classroom Moment – Information

Chairman Moore recognized Superintendent Booker. In place of our traditional Classroom Moment, Superintendent Booker shared some of the things that our schools are doing to engage students during COVID-19.

- Gardner Park Elementary uses Facebook to begin the day with their students. Principal Jaime Wallace and assistant principal D.J. Hamrick make it a routine that at 8:30 a.m. they are on Facebook to greet students, lead the Pledge of Allegiance, give "shout outs" to the students and share announcements.
- The Gaston Gazette featured an article on Faith Huff, York Chester Middle media specialist, who uses Instagram to conduct her storytime with students.
- We have a group of teachers who are leading the efforts to create mask clips using 3D printers. The straps on a mask are connected to the clip, which is worn on the back of the head. This makes wearing the mask a lot more comfortable when straps are not placed around the ears.
- Teachers and students at Tryon Elementary have been engaged in a "positive signs" campaign this year. The campaign has transitioned to an online format and the students have been receiving signs from people in every state and several countries. The signs offer words of encouragement, inspirational quotes and positive messages for the students.

- To support our remote learning, our schools have been working to distribute Chromebook computers to students. We have distributed 8,000 devices so far and our schools continue to provide printed materials for students and families to pick up at school.

- Our Instructional Technology Facilitators have hosted three virtual professional development sessions each day for teachers. More than 2,100 staff members have signed up for the sessions and ITF's maintain daily office hours to support staff who need assistance.

- Because of the diligent efforts of our school nutrition workers who have been on the frontlines during the pandemic, we have provided more than 200,000 "grab and go" meals for students since the program began on March 17.

Teacher Appreciation Week Proclamation - Action

Chairman Moore recognized Mr. Todd Hagans who presented the Teacher Appreciation Week Proclamation for consideration.

Mr. Hagans read the Teacher Appreciation Week Proclamation which is below

Whereas, Gaston County Schools is proud to join other school districts and education organizations across the country in celebrating Teacher Appreciation Week (May 4-8) and National Teacher Day on Tuesday, May 5; and

Whereas, we realize that Teacher Appreciation Week and National Teacher Day are among the most important annual observances because they bring attention to the teaching profession, which is worthy of honor, praise, respect and recognition; and

Whereas, there are more than 1,900 teachers in Gaston County Schools, and they go beyond expectations each day to ensure that children learn, discover, grow and thrive in a safe and caring environment; and

Whereas, we do not have to look any further than the current coronavirus pandemic to see how teachers go the extra mile to support students and their families, which is a prime example of our teachers' unwavering commitment to the education profession; and

Whereas, we are extremely grateful for the teachers and other education professionals in Gaston County Schools who are responsible for inspiring success and a lifelong love for learning in our students.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, to honor all teachers for their important contributions to our schools and steadfast efforts to positively influence the leaders of tomorrow, the Gaston County Board of Education is proud to proclaim the week of May 4-8, 2020 Teacher Appreciation Week in Gaston County Schools and encourages students, parents, school employees and others to express their appreciation for our teachers.

Be It Further Resolved, that this proclamation be made a part of the minutes of the Board of Education, adopted this the twentieth day of April, 2020.

Motion

Motion was made by Ms. Dot Cherry; seconded by Mr. Justin Davis that the Board

Approve Teacher Appreciation Week Proclamation

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

National School Library Month Proclamation – Action

Chairman Moore recognized Mr. Todd Hagans who presented the National School Library Month Proclamation for consideration.

Mr. Hagans read the National School Library Month Proclamation which is below:

Whereas, each year since 1985, the month of April has been designated “National School Library Month” in an effort to celebrate school libraries and bring attention to the significant role they play in public education; and

Whereas, the theme for this year’s observance is “Find Your Place at the Library” with an emphasis on how school libraries transform learning for students and empower them to discover, understand and gain knowledge for their use and benefit; and

Whereas, the school library is intended to serve as the heart of a school by offering books, technology, and many other resources that connect students with information and give teachers what they need to provide an engaging learning environment for students; and

Whereas, we are extremely proud of our librarians and media center coordinators in Gaston County Schools who work diligently to make the library a fun, inviting, and special place for reading, exploring ideas, working together and fostering personal growth.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved that the Gaston County Board of Education is pleased to join other Boards of Education across the United States in proclaiming April 2020 as National School Library Month and encourages the citizens of Gaston County to join in the celebration of “National School Library Month” by promoting the importance of having libraries in our schools and in our community.

Be It Further Resolved, that this proclamation be made a part of the minutes of the Board of Education, adopted this the twentieth day of April, 2020.

Motion

Motion was made by Mrs. Dot Guthrie; seconded by Ms. Dot Cherry that the Board

Approve National School Library Month Proclamation

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

Exceptional Children's and School Choice Instructional Resources Update - Information

Chairman Moore recognized Ms. Carrie Minnich, Executive Director of Exceptional Children and Ms. Denise McLean, Executive Director of Student Support Services via zoom who presented a PowerPoint on Exceptional Children's and School Choice Instructional Resources Update. Discussion followed.

(View PowerPoint)

Innovative Partnership Grant (IPG) for Warlick Academy - Action

Chairman Moore recognized Ms. Denise McLean via zoom who provided information on the Innovative Partnership Grant (IPG) for Warlick Academy.

The Innovative Partnership Grant is a state program to provide schools identified as a school in comprehensive need. This is part of the Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) and operates very much like a school improvement grant. The goal is to improve student achievement and also raise graduation rates. The grant requires school districts to employ an IPG School Coach to assist school leadership in meeting requirements of the grant. School districts must select an approved educational partnership and we have selected to work with University of Virginia and Darden School of Education. We must implement research-based school improvement strategies and are required to track data. Our plan is to work closely with our Accountability Department to help us record and track data for the grant. Staff members are required to participate in professional development, participate in state visits and submit monthly reports on our progress. The grant award amount is \$1.5 million over three years. The grant application is due April 24, 2020 and grant award notice would be in the spring. In early July, the IPG coach must be hired and in place and the school must implement professional development during the school year. Discussion followed.

Motion

Motion was made by Ms. Dot Cherry; seconded by Mrs. Dot Guthrie that the Board

Approve Submitting Application for Innovative Partnership Grant (IPG) for Warlick Academy

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

Gaston Early College High School 2020-2021 Calendar - Action

Chairman Moore recognized Mr. Joey Clinton via zoom who reviewed the Gaston Early College High School 2020-2021 calendar.

Motion

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

Approve Gaston Early College High School 2020-2021 Calendar

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

2020-2021 Gaston County Schools' Budget Request - Action

Chairman Moore recognized Mr. Gary Hoskins via zoom who presented a PowerPoint on 2020-2021 Gaston County Schools' Budget Request. Discussion followed.

Motion

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

Approve the 2020-2021 Gaston County Schools' Budget Request

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

(View PowerPoint)

Consent Agenda - Action

The Board considered the Consent Agenda:

- A. Recommended Personnel
- B. Budget Amendments & Budget Transfers
- C. Construction/Repair Change Orders
- D. W.B. Beam Intermediate School Roof Replacement
- E. Page Primary School Roof Replacement
- F. North Gaston High School Roof Repair and Replacement
- G. New Hope Elementary School Life Safety – Replacement of Doors and Hardware
- H. Carr Elementary School Life Safety – Replacement of Doors and Hardware
- I. North Gaston High School Elevator Modification
- J. East Gaston High School Elevator Modification
- K. Activity Bus Purchases
- L. Chromebook Purchase
- M. Contracts
 - Assessing Math Concepts (AMC)
 - Curriculum Associates
 - Edgenuity
 - IXL
 - SchoolNet
 - TE21
 - Turnitin
 - Verso
 - Gizmos
 - Heinemann Workshop Model Professional Development
 - Phonics Unit of Study
 - Discovery Education
 - Educators Handbook
 - Decodable Text

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

Superintendent's Comments

Superintendent Booker shared a schedule change for our "grab and go" meal program. Beginning this week, meals will be provided at all 20 locations Monday through Thursday from 10:30 a.m. until 12:00 noon with students receiving a meal for Friday on Thursday.

Superintendent Booker thanked parents and our community for their patience, cooperation and understanding as we continue to receive and share information based on guidance from the State Board of Education.

Superintendent Booker congratulated our Finance Department. Once again, our Finance Department has received the ASBO International Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting Award for our Fiscal Year 2019. This continues our Finance Department's long-standing commitment to outstanding work in financial reporting.

Chairman Moore thanked Superintendent Booker and senior staff for everything they are doing.

Chairman Moore recognized Mr. Terry Usery who briefly spoke about Dr. Roland Doepner, former Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction of Gaston County Schools. Dr. Doepner passed away on August 6, 2019 and was a role model who worked diligently to provide excellence in public school education.

Superintendent Booker shared that our "Gaston County Schools Storybook" has been printed and will be distributed over the next few weeks.

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

Closed Session

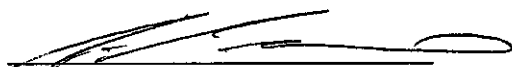
Closed Session was not needed.

Adjournment

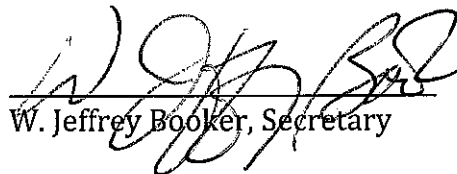
All business having been conducted, Motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Lee Dedmon; seconded by Mr. Justin Davis; Motion carried unanimously. (9-0)

The Board Meeting adjourned at 4:21 p.m.

Approved:



Brent Moore, Chairman
[Corporate Seal]



W. Jeffrey Booker, Secretary

Date Approved: 5/18/2020

PRIDE



PROCLAMATION

Teacher Appreciation Week

MAY 4-8, 2020

WHEREAS, Gaston County Schools is proud to join other school districts and education organizations across the country in celebrating Teacher Appreciation Week (May 4-8) and National Teacher Day on Tuesday, May 5; and

WHEREAS, we realize that Teacher Appreciation Week and National Teacher Day are among the most important annual observances because they bring attention to the teaching profession, which is worthy of honor, praise, respect, and recognition; and

WHEREAS, there are more than 1,900 teachers in Gaston County Schools, and they go beyond expectations each day to ensure that children learn, discover, grow, and thrive in a safe and caring environment; and

WHEREAS, we do not have to look any further than the current coronavirus pandemic to see how teachers go the extra mile to support students and their families, which is a prime example of our teachers' unwavering commitment to the education profession; and

WHEREAS, we are extremely grateful for the teachers and other education professionals in Gaston County Schools who are responsible for inspiring success and a lifelong love for learning in our students.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, to honor all teachers for their important contributions to our schools and steadfast efforts to positively influence the leaders of tomorrow, the Gaston County Board of Education is proud to proclaim the week of

MAY 4-8, 2020


Teacher Appreciation Week

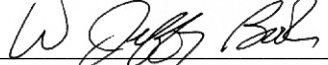
in Gaston County Schools and encourages students, parents, school employees, and others to express their appreciation for our teachers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this proclamation be made a part of the minutes of the Board of Education, adopted this the twentieth day of April, 2020.

Gaston
COUNTY SCHOOLS

shaping our future


Brent Moore, Chairman
Gaston County Board of Education


W. Jeffrey Booker, Superintendent
Gaston County Schools

PRIDE



PROCLAMATION

National School Library Month

WHEREAS, each year since 1985, the month of April has been designated “National School Library Month” in an effort to celebrate school libraries and bring attention to the significant role they play in public education; and

WHEREAS, the theme for this year’s observance is “Find Your Place at the Library” with an emphasis on how school libraries transform learning for students and empower them to discover, understand, and gain knowledge for their use and benefit; and

WHEREAS, the school library is intended to serve as the heart of a school by offering books, technology, and many other resources that connect students with information and give teachers what they need to provide an engaging learning environment for students; and

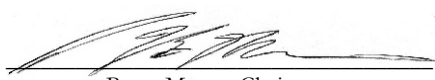
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Brent Moore, Chairman
Gaston County Board of Education


W. Jeffrey Booker, Superintendent
Gaston County Schools

Gaston
COUNTY SCHOOLS

shaping our future

Exceptional Children's and School Choice Instructional Resources- Update

Board of Education Meeting
April 20, 2020

Celebrate! Gaston County Schools



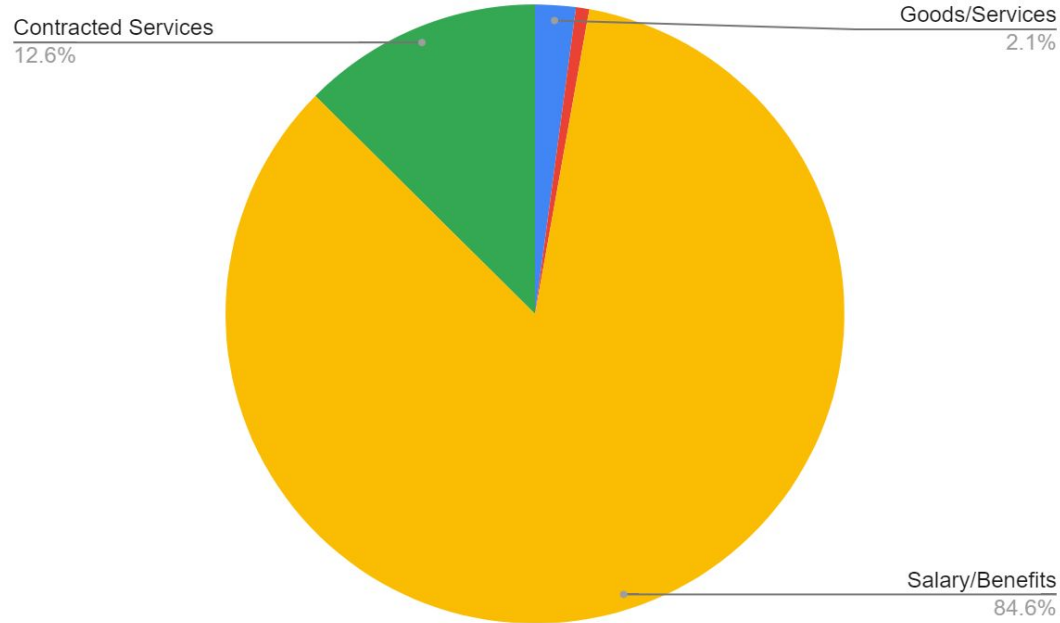
Department for Exceptional Children

Celebrate! Gaston County Schools



DEC Budget 2019-2020

\$32,798,000



Celebrate! Gaston County Schools





- Assist with recruiting, vetting, and securing highly qualified Speech Language Pathologists, Occupational Therapists, Physical Therapists, School Psychologists, Visually Impaired Teachers, Hearing Impaired Teachers and Sign Language Interpreters
- Provide access to a variety of Professional Development Opportunities and Therapy Resources for all Related Services Staff

Contract Amounts

Speech Center - \$750,000

EDU Healthcare - \$750,000

Cobb Pediatrics - \$700,000

Developmental Day Funds

- Available through the State Board of Education to assist in providing services to children with disabilities who are placed in licensed developmental day centers
- Funds are used to provide services to students at Webb Street School



Contract Amount

Developmental Day Funds - \$300,000

Community Residential Funds

- A partnership with the Department for Public Instruction
- Assist in providing services to children with disabilities who are placed in an approved residential center
- Gaston County Schools partners with Holy Angels to provide services using these funds

Contract Amount

Community Residential Funds - \$325,000



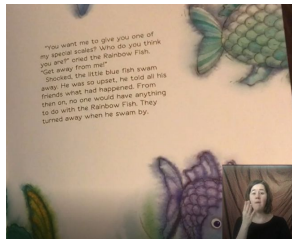
- Provide “orientation and mobility” services to visually impaired children including travel skills for safety and independence, how to use canes and how to use electronic travel aids
- Evaluate students for services
- Consult with school staff and parents



Contract Amount

Equal Eyes- \$15,000

- Provide face-to-face interpretation in American Sign Language and spoken languages
- Available on short notice to serve students directly in schools or to facilitate interpretation at IEP meetings to provide for full parental participation



Contract Amount

Language Lines Solutions (Fluent) - \$25,000



NCDHHS

- Provide services to students aged 14 - adulthood
- Participate in IEP meetings to develop transition plans
- Provide Pre-Employment Transition Services
- Complete educational, psychological, vocational evaluations
- Connect students to job coaching agencies for job placement
- Connect students to agencies for supported employment
- Collaborate with Gaston County Schools to hold community resource events
- Provide financial support for eligible clients for work-based needs

Contract Amount

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Service -
\$55,000



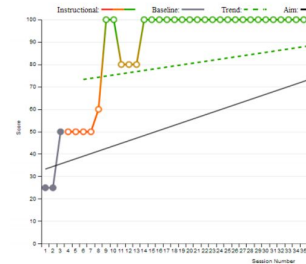
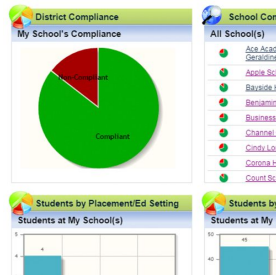
Public Focus. Proven Results.™

Special Funds Management

- Medicaid Reimbursement, Fee for Service and Cost Reporting allow us to receive funds for related services such as speech and occupational therapy
- Risk Pool Funds and Special State Reserves allow us to receive funds through special application for some of our most needy students

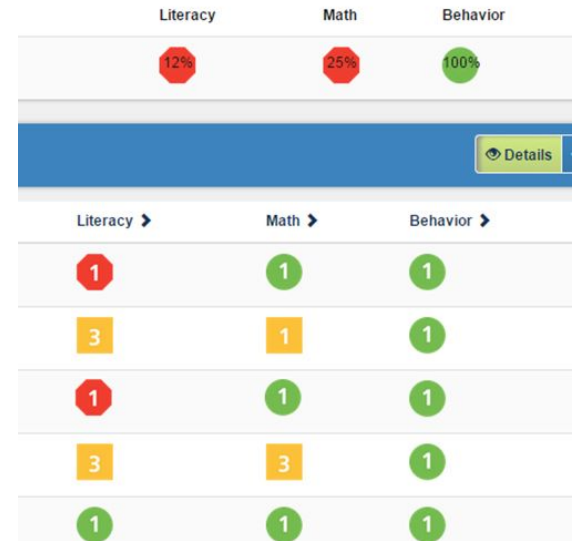
Case Management

- Used for students with Individualized Education Plans or 504 plans
- Allows ease in generating needed reports for the state and to share with parents



Multi Tiered System of Support Early Warning System

- Allows for planning for Core Instruction
- Allows for the creation of Tier Plans
- Allows for intervention logging



Contract Amount

Public Consulting Group - \$500,000



- Provide individualized adult support services for students with behavioral needs
- Provide individualized adult support services for students with life skill needs

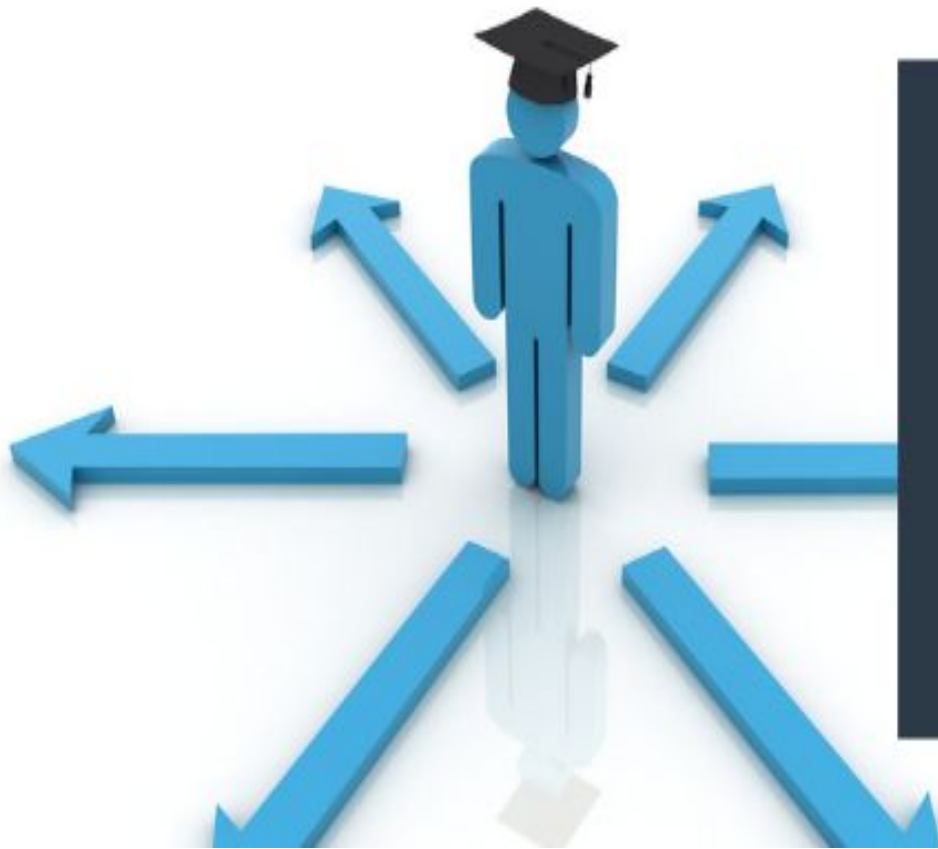


Contract Amount

Support Inc. - \$1,000,000

Student Support Services





SCHOOL CHOICE

Celebrate! Gaston County Schools





Prepares students for college, to be leaders in the community and for global citizenship.

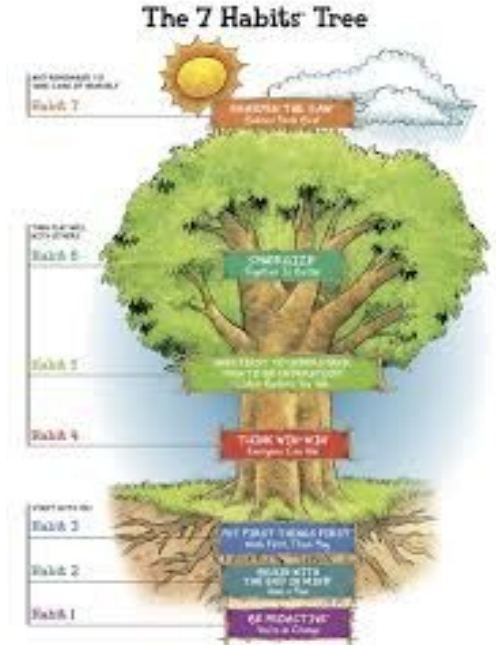
Schools Participating

Carr Elementary

Costner Elementary

W.C. Friday Middle

North Gaston High



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The Leader in Me®

- Year two of implementation
- Teachers and administrators participate in researched based professional development with other educators at Leader In Me Schools from around the world.
- Prepares students for college, global citizenship and life as citizens in our community.
- Based on Stephen Covey's Seven Habits of Highly Effective People
- World renowned leadership program



Contract amount - \$113,586.48

Celebrate! Gaston County Schools





Focuses on helping teachers create engaging, real world, and hands-on classroom environments for students

Schools Participating

- Bessemer City Middle School
- Bessemer City High School
- East Gaston High School
- Hunter Huss High School

Celebrate! Gaston County Schools





PROJECT LEAD THE WAY

PLTW

- Prepares students for college, career and beyond
- Students gain skills and apply learning experiences
- In-demand knowledge from industry leaders
- Year two of implementation
- Researched based training for teachers and administrators
- Engineering, biomedical, computer science

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Contract amount - \$23,866.00

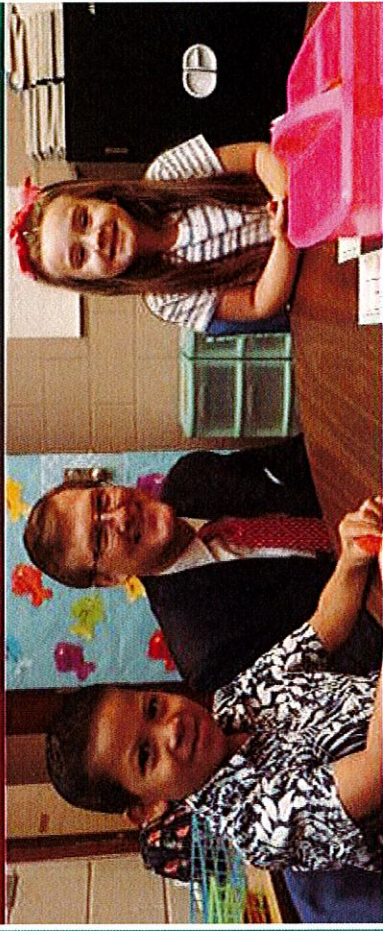
Celebrate! Gaston County Schools



Exceptional Children's and School Choice Instructional Resources- Update


Board of Education Meeting

April 20, 2020



Gaston County Schools
Budget Request 2020—2021

W. Jeffrey Booker, Ed.D., Superintendent
943 Osceola Street — P.O. Box 1397
Gastonia, North Carolina 28053
www.gaston.k12.nc.us



Celebrate! Gaston County Schools

Budget Overview

- **Budget Update**
- Operating Request
- Capital Request
- Conclusion



Celebrate! Gaston County Schools

Budget Calendar

- January
- Jan/Feb
- March
- April
- **May**



Celebrate! Gaston County Schools

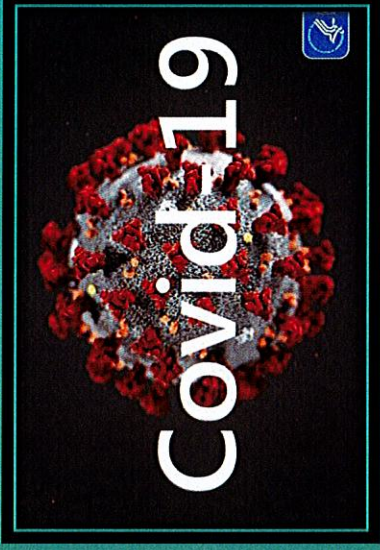
Budget Calendar

- **May/June**
- **June**
- **July/August**
- **Aug/Sept**



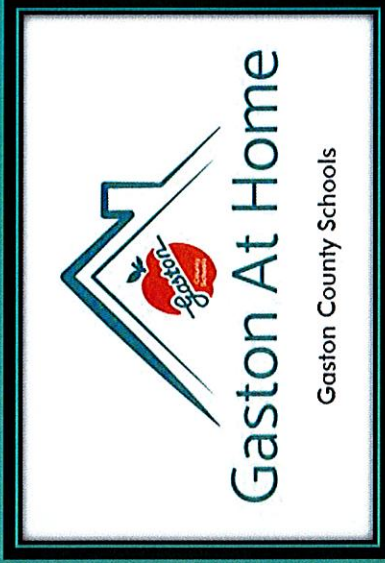
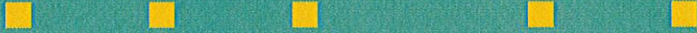
Celebrate! Gaston County Schools

External Factors



Celebrate! Gaston County Schools

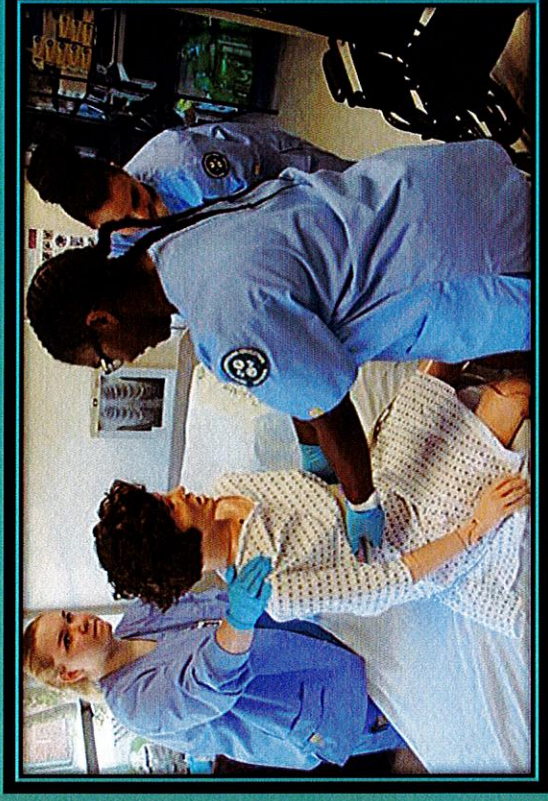
Internal Factors



Celebrate! Gaston County Schools

Budget Overview

- Budget Update
- Operating Request
- Capital Request
- Conclusion



Celebrate! Gaston County Schools

Operating Request

Ongoing Expenditures

New Initiatives



Celebrate! Gaston County Schools

Current Funding

FY 2019-20 Local Allotment - \$50,311,704

-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-



Celebrate! Gaston County Schools

Expansion Request

Ongoing Expenditures - \$1,315,000

Ongoing Expenditures	
State Mandated Increase in Employer Paid Benefits	\$ 483,000
Replace End-of-Life Mobile Devices	1,067,000
One Time Funding Request - Technology	(610,000)
Teacher Assistants - Increased Work Days	310,000
Inflation - Operating Expenses	165,000
One Time Funding Request - Choice Programs	(100,000)
Total	\$ 1,315,000



Celebrate! Gaston County Schools