

**Gaston County Schools  
Board of Education  
Monday, February 17, 2020  
Meeting 5:30 p.m.**

**MINUTES**

The Gaston County Board of Education met in a regular session on Monday, February 17, 2020 in the auditorium of Bessemer City High School, 119 Yellow Jacket Lane, Bessemer City, NC. Those Board Members in attendance were: Chairman Brent Moore, Dot Cherry, Justin Davis, Lee Dedmon, Dot Guthrie, Steve Hall, Jeff Ramsey and Terry Usery (Vice Chairman Kevin Collier arrived after meeting in progress).

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

Chairman Moore called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m. and welcomed everyone.

Chairman Moore recognized Dr. Shelia Wyont, principal of Bessemer City High School, who briefly described renovations that happened over the summer.

Chairman Moore recognized Mayor Becky Smith who welcomed Board Members to Bessemer City.

**Invocation**

Youth and Young Adult Pastor Josh Baker, First Wesleyan Church of Bessemer City, 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. Justin Davis seconded by Mr. Lee Dedmon motion carried unanimously. (8-0)

**Good News – Information**

Superintendent Booker thanked school leadership for everything they did to calm students during the tornado event we had earlier this month.

Superintendent Booker recognized winners in the Gaston Regional Science and Engineering Fair that took place at the Schiele Museum last month. These students, in addition to about 50 others from Gaston County Schools, will go on to represent the district in the Regional Science and Engineering Fair at UNC-Charlotte this weekend.

The overall division winners advancing to the regional level are:

**Audrey Hester**, Ashbrook High School. Audrey's project was titled "What is the Relationship Between Fluorescence and Radioactivity of Glass Colored with Uranium Oxide?"

Mr. Jeff Ramsey presented Audrey a Certificate of Recognition.

**Avery Davis**, Belmont Middle School. Avery presented her project, "Do You Have The Heart To Taste? A Study of the Effects of Beta-Blockers on Older Adults' Tasting Abilities."

Mrs. Dot Guthrie presented Avery a Certificate of Recognition.

**Sydney Mitchell**, Hawks Nest STEAM Academy was the overall winner in the Elementary Division. Her Project was titled "Squid's Soaring Planes."

Ms. Dot Cherry presented Sydney a Certificate of Recognition.

Superintendent Booker recognized Will Trogdon, who is a kindergartner at W.A. Bess Elementary School. Will was chosen as the winner in a naming contest for the Keep Gastonia Beautiful bee mascot. Submitting the name Miss Polly Nator, Will was chosen out of 415 entries as the winner of the contest.

Mr. Justin Davis presented Will a Certificate of Recognition.

### **Public Expression - Information**

Donyel Barber  
610 Devonwood Court  
Gastonia, NC  
RE: High school graduation being moved indoors

Leslie Coffey  
3717 St. Regis Drive  
Gastonia, NC  
RE: High school graduation being moved indoors

Kendall Massey  
3445 Gardner Park Drive  
Gastonia, NC  
RE: High school graduation being moved indoors

Kirsten Hudson  
1332 Princeton Avenue  
Gastonia, NC  
RE: Positive aspects of moving high school graduation indoors

Teresa MacFarlane  
1139 E. Franklin Blvd.  
Gastonia, NC  
RE: High school graduation being moved indoors

Blaise Shiver  
3511 Merry Oaks Lane  
Dallas, NC  
RE: High school graduation being moved indoors

Joshua Millspaw  
9115 Shorewood Place  
Belmont, NC  
RE: High School graduation being moved indoors

Gloria Tingle  
Belmont, NC  
RE: High school graduation being moved indoors

Mollie Lund  
5031 Woodland Bay Drive  
Belmont, NC  
RE: High school graduation being moved indoors

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

The Board considered Approval of Minutes – Action

Motion to adopt minutes of January 17, 2020 as presented was made by Mr. Lee Dedmon; seconded by Mr. Steve Hall motion carried unanimously. (9-0)

#### **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 nine 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, 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 Daniela Perez Aguilar who is a student in Florence McCorkle’s second grade class at Sadler Elementary School. Also with us is assistant principal Laura Costner.

To recognize Vice Chairman **Kevin Collier**, who represents the Riverbend Township, is Xavier Pacheco, who is a student in Rebecca O’Byron’s fifth grade class at Pinewood Elementary School. Also with us is principal Tyler West.

To recognize **Lee Dedmon**, who represents the Gastonia Township, is Dayonna Bell who is a student in Dana Hinkle’s second grade class at Brookside Elementary School. Also with us is principal Chad Hovis.

To recognize **Justin Davis**, who represents the South Point Township, is Gwen Kubbs who is a student in Stephanie Fox's kindergarten class at Page Primary School. Also with us is principal Todd Goff.

To recognize **Terry Usery**, who represents the Cherryville Township, is JaMya Blanton who is a student in Alexa Feller's third grade class at Cherryville Elementary School. Also with us is principal Shawn Hubers.

To recognize **Steve Hall**, who represents the Dallas Township, is Preston Hendrix who is a student in Yolanda Glenn's third grade class at Costner Elementary School. Also with us is Ms. Glenn.

To recognize **Dot Guthrie**, who represents the Gastonia Township, is Eli Dunn and Caitlyn and Connor Irish in Kellie Patz's third grade class at Hawks Nest STEAM Academy. Also with us is principal Jill Payne.

To recognize **Jeff Ramsey**, who is an At-Large Member, is Emma Harris in Amanda Matz's second grade class at North Belmont Elementary School. Also with us is principal Justin Beam.

To recognize **Dot Cherry**, who is an At-Large Member, is Michaela Stroupe and Brandon Norman in Jessica McKinney's fourth grade class at Chapel Grove Elementary School. Also with us is principal Tammy Mims.

To honor **Superintendent Booker**, is Charlynn Smith in Crystal Ommert's kindergarten class at Gardner Park Elementary School. Also with us is principal Jaime Wallace and vice principal DJ Hamrick.

Representatives from Lingerfeldt Elementary School presented **Dot Guthrie** with a "thank-you" card.

### **Classroom Moment – Information**

Chairman Moore recognized Dr. Melissa Balknight who introduced Denise McLean. Mrs. McLean introduced Tina Peterson, lead social worker and Whitney Hill, Hunter Huss social worker, who presented a PowerPoint on Gaston County Schools School Social Workers.

(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:

- Bill Farnsworth, Project Manager, reported a few days were lost at Belmont Middle School due to rain but the project is still on schedule. Block work has started on the concession stands. Ceiling grids are scheduled to start being installed on February 24. The roof is about 70 percent complete in section B and the gymnasium is in the dry. Grading has started on the football field. Duke Energy is asking for easement to come across pavement in the grassy area.

- Chip Irby, Director of Facilities, reported the proposed summer capital projects include: roofing, life safety, LED lighting, asphalt replacements, media center renovations, painting, and carpet/flooring replacements.

- Morgen Houchard, Executive Director of Auxiliary Services, shared three renderings of structural and safety updates to Ashbrook, South Point and East Gaston. These are bond funded projects scheduled to begin this summer.
- The committee was introduced to the new Director of School Safety and Security, Michael Nance and the new School Safety and Security Compliance Specialist, Blair Hall.
- Information was shared about the Carolina Thread Trail and changes that have been proposed. Parts of the trail will be changed near Stuart Cramer High School and will tie to the Rocky Branch Park.
- Joey Clinton, Executive Director of Human Resources, shared a proposed revision to Policy 4240 which relates to Child Abuse Reports and Investigations.
- Chris Hall, Project Manager, reported that the School Business Systems Modernization project is currently still on hold. The Legislature is out so there is no funding for the project.
- Aaron Slutsky, Chief Technology Officer, reviewed the purchase of Chromebooks and the Microsoft Agreement because the contracts/expenditures are over \$100,000 and will be on the Consent Agenda.

### **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:

- Revised Policy 4240 – Child Abuse – Reports and Investigations was presented for information. The draft is posted online. The item will be presented to the Board for action in March 2020.
- Staff shared on middle school instruction. Each area of instruction highlighted student engagement, hands-on learning, and teaching students to be problem solvers and how to take ownership of their learning.
- Committee received information on low performing school support. Professional development, teacher coaching sessions, check-in meetings and additional staff are some resources those schools receive for support.

Staff shared information about course sequencing and some changes that will occur fall 2020. Principals have met with appropriate staff in Academic Services to explain the changes and provide suggestions to ensure students can complete their selected pathways.

### **EOG/EOC Summer School – Information**

Chairman Moore recognized Rebekka Powers, Chief Accountability Officer, who presented a PowerPoint on EOG/EOC Summer School. Discussion followed.

(View PowerPoint)

### **Eligibility of Transfer Athletes — Revise Policy 4316 - Information**

Chairman Moore recognized Chad Duncan, Athletic Director, who presented a PowerPoint on Transfers and Student-Athletes. Discussion followed.

(View PowerPoint)

### **Acceptance of the June 30, 2019 Compliance Report – Action**

Chairman Moore recognized Mr. Gary Hoskins who reported that Anderson Smith and Wike PLLC, Certified Public Accountants, have completed their audit of Gaston County Schools financial statements and issued their opinion and compliance reports for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2019. Mr. Hoskins briefly reviewed the report. Discussion followed.

**Motion**

Motion was made by Mr. Kevin Collier; seconded by Mr. Lee Dedmon that the Board  
**Approve the Acceptance of the June 30, 2019 Compliance Report**

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

**Annual Engagement Letter with Independent Auditors – Action**

Chairman Moore recognized Mr. Gary Hoskins who gave an update on the Annual Engagement Letter from Anderson Smith & Wike PLLC. Discussion followed.

**Motion**

Motion was made by Mr. Lee Dedmon; seconded by Mr. Steve Hall that the Board  
**Approve Annual Engagement Letter with Independent Auditors**

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

**Reduction in Force — Strategic Planning – Action**

Chairman Moore recognized Superintendent Booker who gave an overview of Reduction in Force – Strategic Planning.

NC General Statute §115-325(e)(2) and Gaston County Schools’ Board Policy 7820 require the Superintendent to present to the Board of Education a recommendation for a possible Reduction in Force based on system reorganization, declining enrollment and/or financial exigency. An approval by the Board of the ability to implement the Reduction in Force Policy will provide staff with needed flexibility to address this issue, if necessary.

**Motion**

Motion was made by Mr. Kevin Collier; seconded by Ms. Dot Cherry that the Board  
**Approve Reduction in Force – Strategic Planning**

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. Senate Bill 199 – Child Abuse Reports and Investigations
- E. Roof Replacement – Highland School of Technology
- F. Roof Replacement – East Gaston High School
- G. Utility Easement
- H. Chromebook Purchase
- I. Contract  
—Microsoft Software Agreement

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

### **Superintendent's Comments**

Superintendent Booker reported we are still spreading the news about School Choice. As of today, we have received over 1,000 applications for school choice. There will be a School Choice Information Session at Gaston College – Myers Center on Saturday, February 22 from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Superintendent Booker reported that staff is already looking at our summer work schedule — 10 hour days/four days a week. Due to July 4 falling on a Saturday this year, we will observe the holiday on Thursday, July 2, 2020.

Superintendent Booker invited everyone to attend the Forestview High School “Night of the Arts” on Thursday, February 20 from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

### **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. Steve Hall; motion carried unanimously. (9-0)

The Board went into Closed Session at 7:20 p.m.

The Board returned to Open Session at 7:36 p.m.

Chairman Moore wished Mr. 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. (9-0)

The Board Meeting adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

Approved:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Brent Moore, Chairman  
[Corporate Seal]

\_\_\_\_\_  
W. Jeffrey Booker, Secretary

Date Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

# Classroom Moment

Celebrate! Gaston County Schools



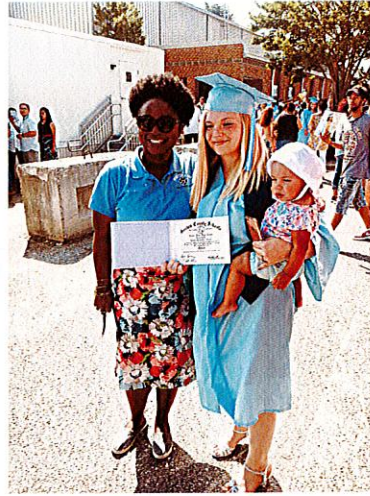
## A Day In The Life of a School Social Worker

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# Attendance



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# Homelessness



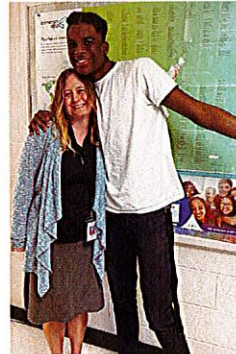
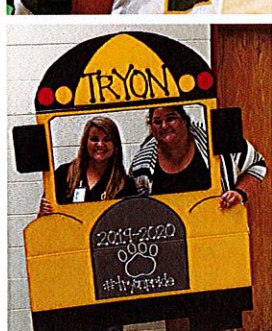
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# Community



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Thank You

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# EOG/EOC Summer School

Board of Education  
February 17, 2020

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# EOG/EOC Summer School

## Testing Areas

- 3rd - 8th Grade Math
- 5th and 8th Grade Science
- Biology
- Math 1
- Math 3

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# Questions?

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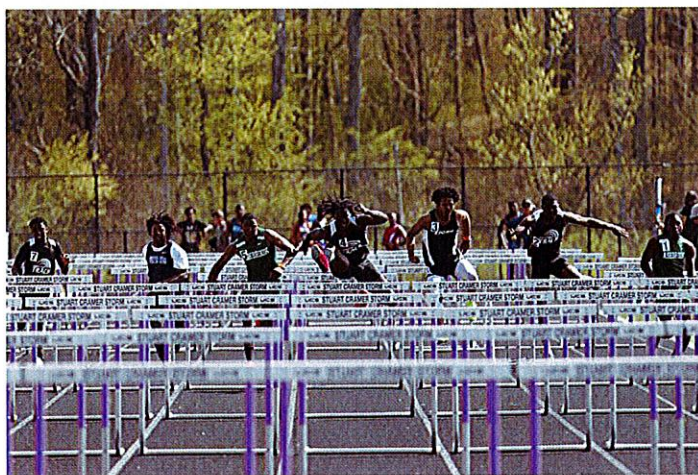
# Transfers and Student-Athletes

February 17, 2020

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## Request to revise BOE Policy 4316



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# BOE Policy 4316

## Information Considered:

- Current district policy
- Policies of other LEA's
- Challenges

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## NCHSAA TRANSFER Previous Member School Certification

Receiving Member School:

Previous Member School:

Sport(s) student participated in at previous school  
 Baseball  Golf  Tennis  
 Basketball  Lacrosse  Track & Field  
 Cross Country  Soccer  Volleyball  
 Football  Softball  Other (please list)

Other Sport:

Student First Name:

Student Middle Name:

Student Last Name:

Student DOB:

Current Grade:

Date of Enrollment:

*You must check the box verifying or not verifying the enrollment*

Enrollment record submitted by:		Is this enrollment record correct?	
Previous School(s)	Enrollment Date(s) (E1)	Withdrawal Date(s) (W1)	
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	

Comments:

Yes  No Has been properly released by LEA?

Yes  No Do you believe the transfer was done for athletic purposes? If Yes, provide reason why:

**Certification**  
 I acknowledge that the NCHSAA must authorize this request before \_\_\_\_\_ can participate in practice or games  
 I certify that \_\_\_\_\_ has done its due diligence in providing accurate and up to date information on the above named student transfer certification form, I verify that all documents regarding the above named student's request have been submitted. Failure to complete outlined above may effect the action of the NCHSAA relative to \_\_\_\_\_ transfer.  
 Yes

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## Current Policy 4316

### I. Eligible Students

A. GENERAL POLICY

B. GASTON COUNTY MAGNET

SCHOOLS

C. GASTON COUNTY CHOICE PROGRAMS

D. CHANGE OF DOMICILE

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## Policy Code: 4316 Eligibility for Transfer Athletes

### I. Eligible Students

#### B. Gaston County Magnet Schools

Students enrolled in the Gaston County Magnet School (a school absent of attendance zone) are eligible for interscholastic athletics. In the event a Magnet School student chooses to return to the home school, the student will be eligible for interscholastic athletics provided the prohibition against playing the same sport for two schools in the same season is not violated.

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## **Policy Code: 4316 Eligibility for Transfer Athletes**

### **I. Eligible Students**

#### **C. Gaston County Choice Programs**

Any student accepted to a School Choice program (a program within a school that has attendance zones), prior to the starting date of the fall athletic season, is eligible for interscholastic athletics at the assigned school. In the event a School Choice student chooses to return to the home school, the student will be eligible for interscholastic athletics provided the prohibition against playing the same sport for two schools in the same season is not violated.

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## **Proposed Change**

### **I. Eligible Students**

#### **E. Transfers From Outside of the Local Education Agency (LEA)**

Students in grades 9-12 who are domiciled inside of Gaston County and who transfer into the LEA will be eligible to participate.

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## Current Policy 4316

### II. Ineligible Students

#### A. Transfers to/from Schools within Gaston County

Students in grades 9-12 who are domiciled inside of Gaston County and who transfer to/from a NCHSAA member school into/out of a Gaston County School will be ineligible to participate in interscholastic athletics for 365 days from the date of enrollment in the new school.

#### B. Transfers from Outside Gaston County

Students in grades 9-12 who are domiciled outside Gaston County and who transfer into a Gaston County School will be ineligible to participate in athletics for 365 days from the date of transferring into the new school. The student shall be assigned to a school within a reasonable proximity to the student's domicile that meets the best interest of the student and the orderly and efficient administration of the public schools.

#### C. Feeder School Transfer

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## Current Policy 4316

### III. Waivers

An athlete who has been deemed ineligible due to the above defined transfers may request a waiver by the Athletic Director in limited circumstances.

#### A. Medical/Health Related

#### B. Specified Requirement of Social Services or the Court System

#### C. Student Protection

#### D. Student/Child of School Employee

#### E. Siblings

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# Proposed Change

## II. Ineligible Students

### A. Transfers to Schools within Gaston County

Students in grades 9-12 who are domiciled inside of Gaston County and who transfer **from one Gaston County School to another Gaston County School** are ineligible to participate in interscholastic athletics for 365 days from the date of enrollment in the new school.

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Questions?

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