Gaston County Schools Board of Education Monday. May 18, 2020 Meeting 3:00 p.m.

MINUTES

The Gaston County Board of Education met in a regular session on Monday, May 18, 2020 in the Board Room, 943 Osceola Street, Gastonia, NC. The Board of Education meeting was held electronically to honor social distancing requirements related to the coronavirus pandemic. 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 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.

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. (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 COIVD-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 extended a "thank you" to Gaston Family Health Services for providing dental health care exams, cleanings, fluoride treatments and sealants for 1,387 of our students.

Superintendent Booker congratulated Cody Wiper, Hunter Huss High School student, who was elected to serve as a state officer for SkillsUSA, which is an organization for students who are interested in careers in trade, technical and skilled service.

Superintendent Booker congratulated South Point High School for having three sport teams on the State Scholar-Athlete Team list – men's basketball (ranked first in the state with a 3.705 GPA); women's tennis (ranked second with a 3.91 GPA); and women's swimming and diving (ranked third with a 3.89 GPA).

Superintendent Booker congratulated Mary Elizabeth Martin, Stuart W. Cramer High School senior, who was named a National Merit Scholar and will receive a full-tuition scholarship from the National Merit Foundation. Mary Elizabeth plans to attend the University of Alabama.

Superintendent Booker congratulated David Buckner, Ashbrook High School senior, who has been chosen as a prestigious Levine Scholar to attend UNC-Charlotte. David will receive a full-tuition scholarship and participate in various academic and enrichment opportunities as part of the Levine honors program.

Superintendent Booker congratulated Marissa Cannon, Ashbrook High School senior, who won the prestigious Mary Doctor Performing Arts Scholarship, which is valued at \$10,000 per year for four years. Marissa will attend Appalachian State University. This scholarship is awarded as part of the Blumey Awards program through the Blumenthal Performing Arts Center in Charlotte.

Superintendent Booker thanked the Gaston County Museum of Art and History for showcasing entries for "Through an Artist's Eyes". You can view the various entries on our Facebook page. Superintendent Booker congratulated the two top winners who earned "Best of Show" honors – North Gaston High School senior Karson Dean, who earned "Best in Show" for her drawing titled "Later Gator" and Stanley Middle School eighth grader Hope Yang, who earned "Best in Show" for her award-winning piece titled "Daydream."

Superintendent Booker thanked Classroom Central for working with Gaston County Schools to secure \$6,000 through Gaston County COVID-19 Virus Relief Fund. The funds provided 600 hygiene and school supply kits that were distributed at several of our "grab and go" meal sites.

Public Expression - Information (Submitted via e-mail. Statement read at meeting by Board Clerk)

Kyerstin Cooper 306 N. 13th Street Bessemer City, NC 28016 RE: Gaston County Graduation

Approval/Correction of Minutes – Action

The Board considered Approval of Minutes – Action

Motion to adopt minutes of April 20, 2020 as presented was made by Mr. Lee Dedmon; seconded by Mr. Steve Hall motion carried unanimously. (9-0)

Classroom Moment - Information

Chairman Moore recognized Superintendent Booker who introduced Ms. Cristi Bostic, Executive Director of Student Services, who presented a PowerPoint on Graduation 2020 Plan. Discussion followed.

Superintendent Booker shared that the Education Foundation will sponsor signage for our seniors. In the first week of June, billboards will be displayed around each of our high schools recognizing the graduating class of 2020. In addition, they are giving a small contribution to each of the schools to support this work.

(View PowerPoint)

COVID-19 Update - Information

Chairman Moore recognized Superintendent Booker who presented a PowerPoint on COVID-19 Update. Discussion followed.

(View PowerPoint)

Gaston College Board of Trustees Appointment - Information

Chairman Moore recognized Mr. Todd Hagans who explained the process of the Gaston College Board of Trustees Appointment. The term of this appointment will run from July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2024. Mr. James C. Smith is at the end of his current term. The application will be posted on our website and should be returned by 12:00 noon on Wednesday, June 10, 2020. Applicants will participate in an interview to be held immediately before the Board of Education's regular meeting on Monday, June 15.

School Calendar Changes - Information

Chairman Moore recognized Mr. Joey Clinton, Executive Director of Human Resources, who presented a PowerPoint on School Calendar Changes. Discussion followed.

(View PowerPoint)

Discovery Education - Information

Chairman Moore recognized Dr. Melissa Balknight who presented a PowerPoint on Discovery Education Contract. Discussion followed.

(View PowerPoint).

Modern Teacher - Information

Chairman Moore recognized Dr. Melissa Balknight who presented a PowerPoint on Modern Teacher Contract. Discussion followed.

(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. Contracts
 - —Cobb Pediatrics
 - —EDU Healthcare
 - —Speech Center
 - —Community Residential Funds
 - —Developmental Day Funds
 - —Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services
 - -Equal Eyes Vision Services
 - -Fluent Language Line
 - —Public Consulting Group (PCG)
 - —Support Incorporated
 - —The Leader in Me
 - -Project Lead the Way
 - -Driver Education

- —Scribble Services, LLC
- -East Gaston High School Canopy Replacement and Facade Update
- —Ashbrook High School Canopy Replacement and Facade Update
- —South Point High School Security Vestibule and Facade Update
- —Brookside Elementary School Roof Replacement
- -- Mount Holly Middle School Roof Replacement
- -North Gaston High School Drainage Project
- -Forestview High School Drainage/Retaining Pond Repair
- -South Point High School Tennis Courts
- —Cherryville High School Parking Lot
- -Carr Elementary School Parking Lot
- -Holbrook Middle School Gym Renovation

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

Superintendent's Comments

Superintendent Booker reported that the School Calendar changes discussed earlier also includes Gaston Early College High School. Both calendars will be placed on the website for review.

Superintendent Booker reported that discussion continues on guidelines related to school re-entry and committees are reviewing re-entry documents. We will continue to keep you informed as we receive information.

Superintendent Booker reported that next Monday, May 25 is the Memorial Day holiday and our schools and Central Offices will be closed. The "grab and go" meal program will not be offered on Monday because of the holiday but will resume on Tuesday, May 26 from 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon.

Superintendent Booker thanked everyone for the appreciation shown this month to celebrate Teacher Appreciation Week.

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 Mrs. Dot Guthrie; motion carried unanimously. (9-0)

The Board went into Closed Session at 4:47 p.m.

The Board returned to Open Session at 5:08 p.m.

Adjournment

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

The Board Meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Approved:

Brent Moore, Chairman [Corporate Seal]

Date Approved: _

N. Joffrey Booker, Secretary

Classroom Moment

Board of Education Meeting May 18, 2020







<u>Graduates</u>

2,346





Stakeholder Input

- Student leaders
- School Staff
- Survey





Feedback



- Senior Students majority of responses
- Senior Parents
- High School Teachers
- Other relatives



Feedback









Survey

2,496
Responded to the Survey



Respondents were asked to rank the following in order of importance:

- Wearing my, or seeing my graduate wear their cap & gown
- Live streaming of the graduation event
- A video keepsake
- Walking across the stage
- Being able to have family/friends present in some way
- Location of the graduation ceremony



Most Important









Governor's Order

- School's to remain closed
- Stay at home order modified
- Gatherings limited to 10 people
- Must practice social distancing
- Face covering recommended









- Allow students to walk across the stage, in cap and gown, with small group of family members present to receive diploma
- Create a video of senior pictures and speeches to be available on June 13



The process

Designated Time 15 minutes

5 minutes

Exit

Arrival

Students and up to 8 family members arrive and follow directions of staff on where to park their car and when to exit.

Proceed In Building and Walk

Student and family will proceed to checkpoint one on the walkway, then checkpoint two in the building lobby, then into the gym/auditorium to process down to the stage, walk across the stage (and have picture taken), and exit the side/rear

Diploma Pickup

Upon exiting the gym/auditorium, the student and family will pick up the pre-packed diploma, transcript, and any other important papers.

Campus Exit

Upon receiving their graduation packet student and family will proceed to their vehicle and exit campus.



Celebrate! Gaston County Schools



<u>Video</u>

- Student senior pictures will be used
- Graduation speeches will be pre-recorded
 - Pre-Identified Students, Principal, and District Officials
- Each schools video will be streamed on their YouTube Channel or Facebook Page June 13, original graduation date



Resources Needed

Walk Across Stage	Video
 Stage set up at each school Teacher volunteers Police Officers A supply of gloves, masks, and sanitizer for each location Photographer 	 Pre-recorded speeches Traditional student speakers Yearbook senior pictures Pictures of Junior Marshals



Classroom Moment

Board of Education Meeting May 18, 2020



Legislative Update for Superintendents May 7, 2020





Katherine Joyce, NCASA Executive Director



General Assembly K-12 Relief Package

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- ➤ Approved in 2 bills on 5/2, with funding in House Bill 1043 and policy changes in Senate Bill 704.
- ➤ Governor signed both into law on 5/4 at press conference with House and Senate leaders of both parties.
- ➤ Package reflects wide bipartisan support; only 1 of 170 total legislators voted against either bill.
- > Some follow-up actions by DPI and State Board may be needed.



Federal Funding: CARES Act



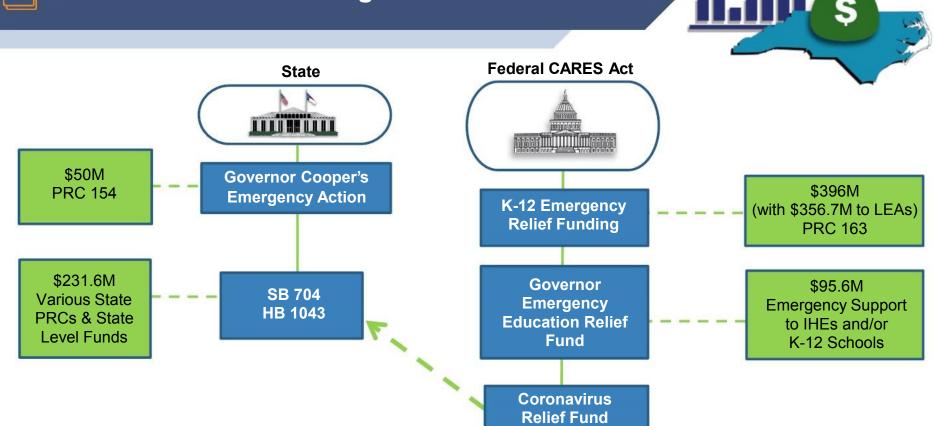
- > Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act
 - Passed by Congress on 3/27
 - Provides \$30.75B in new funding to Education Stabilization Fund, with \$13.23B specifically allocated for K-12
 - NC has already received ~ \$2B of \$3.5 total from that fund and other relief provided to states to support coronavirus recovery
- NC Education Stabilization Fund Share
 - Governor's Education Relief Fund: \$95.6M
 - Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund = \$396M
 - Appropriated directly to LEAs: \$356.7M
 - Reserved for DPI administration: \$1.98M
 - Reserved for statewide initiatives: \$37.7M

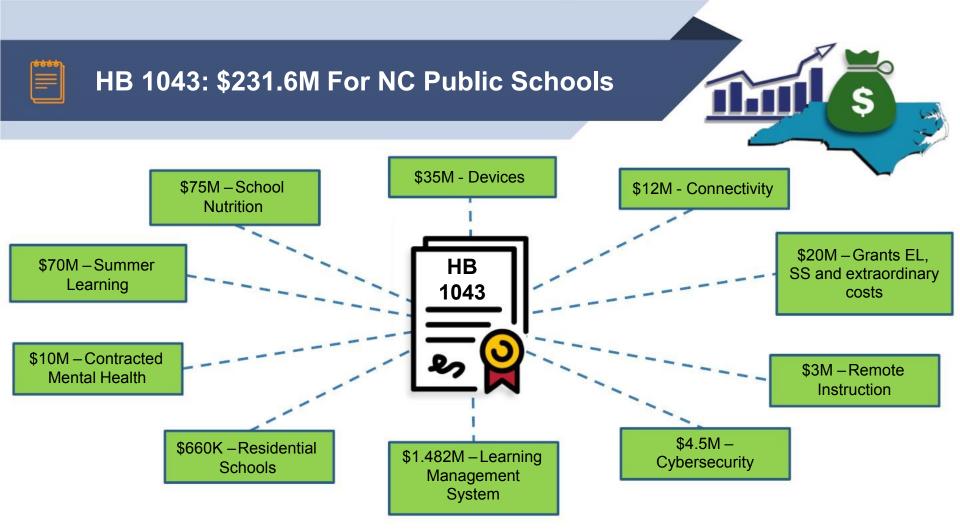
Deadlines & Use of Funds:

- ESSER Funds to LEAs expire Sept. 30, 2021.
- Other federal funds approved for appropriation or reserves by state must be used on expenditures March-December 2020.
- Governor's Fund can go to IHEs and/or K-12; yet to be announced.



COVID-19 Relief Funding for NC Public Schools







H1043: \$70M For Summer Learning



- > Required Use of Funds:
 - \$35M must go to reading interventions:
 - 75% must go to struggling readers who were in Grades 2 and 3 in 19-20.
 - 25% may go to supplemental reading support in 2020-21 for Grades 3-4 students not on track.
 - All funds must be used by 12/31/20.
 - \$35M must be used for:
 - Reading interventions for Grades K, 1
 & 4 students not on track in 2019-20.
 - Math interventions for Grade 4
 students not on track in 2019-20.

- Other Requirements:
 - Funds may be used for digital resources, printed materials, literacy coaches, and face-to-face instruction.
 - Each school unit must submit a Summer Learning Plan to DPI by 6/22/20; comply with any Exec. Order.
 - Summer learning programs shall not be scheduled in instructional time for 2020-21.
 - on implementation and share each Summer Learning Plan.







- > Accountability Measures & Testing
 - Public School Waivers: Testing EOGs, EOCs, WorkKeys, ACT (must give in 20-21), K-3 diagnostic + formative; School Performance Grades/Report Cards/School Bldg. Reports; Low-Performing School ID, ISD selection; and CPR grad. requirement.
 - Read to Achieve: Principals decide 3rd grade promotions; parental notice on progress through 3/13; interventions for retained students; waives Summer Reading Camps; 3rd Grade diagnostic reading test for 4th Graders in 1st 10 days bldgs. open in 20-21; waives web posting of K-3 outcomes; LEAs report to SBE by 9/1/20.
- Advanced Math Placement Modification: Allows 2019-20 teachers to determine placement or students can qualify after opting in and scoring at highest level on EOG/EOC.
- School Improvement Plans:
 Extends School Improvement Plans expiring 6/30/20; valid through12/31/20, then expire in 18 months rather than in 2 years.



- ➤ Proposed but NOT INCLUDED in Final Bill:
 - No delay in K-3 class size phase-in and funding.
 - No flexibility in funding allotments or carryover.
 - No hold-harmless for principal salary schedule placement.
 - No driver education funding carryover.









- > Retiree Return to Work Temporarily changes 6-month separation to 1-month separation allowing those who retired under TSERS Oct. 1, 2019-April 1, 2020 to return to work on part-time, temporary, or interim basis during COVID-19 emergency.
- ➤ Governmental Immunity Provides immunity for LEAs/other entities providing essential goods and services, from civil liability claims from customers or employees for injuries/deaths allegedly caused by contracting COVID-19 from interaction with/for that entity. (Exceptions for gross negligence, reckless misconduct, or intentional infliction or harm.)

- > Remote Meetings Authorizes school boards & other public bodies to conduct remote meetings within limits.
- Administrator Pay and Training
 - **Continues eligibility for principal** recruitment supplement if had in 19-20.
 - Waives certain school administrator and Transforming Principal **Preparation Program requirements.**
 - Extends licensure exams by 1 year for principals/other administrators not met by 3/10/20 & extends CEUs by 1 year.







- > Teacher Performance & Training
 - Waives requirement for principals to notify teachers of updated EVAAS data from 2019-20.
 - Waives requirement for LEAs to provide teacher effectiveness data to SBE.
 - Allows annual teacher evaluations from 2019-20 to be based on observations completed before closure and allows other artifacts/evidence.
 - Waives any required observations not completed prior to closure.

- Provides 1-year extension on teacher licensure & renewal requirements.
- **➤ Modifies EPP Requirements**
 - Waives minimum admission requirements for 2020-21.
 - Waives pedagogy tests in 2019-20 but requires those student teachers to attempt tests in 1st year of licensure and pass by 3rd year.
 - Waives student clinical Internships.





- ➤ Remote Instruction Plans To be submitted by 7/20/20 to SBE with all the following:
 - 1. Consulting with stakeholders in developing Plan and effectively communicating it to all.
 - 2. Training for teachers and staff on effective use of remote instruction resources and process for student submission of completed work; shall identify any learning management system, online instructional resource, or offline instructional resource being made available to all students in a grade-level across the LEA.
 - 3. Defining and clearly communicating staff roles and expectations for remote instruction days, including teacher workdays, teacher accessibility, and

- noncertified staff workdays and responsibilities; may include expectations for when remote instruction days are also used as teacher workdays.
- 4. Surveying student and teacher home connectivity and providing remote instruction appropriate for teachers and students with limited connectivity.
- Engaging with community partners on services that parents and students can use during

remote instruction.

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- Remote Instruction Plans (continued):
 - 6. Developing effective design and delivery within professional learning communities.
 - 7. Teaching and practice opportunities for students on accessing and using remote instruction platforms and methods during non-remote days.
 - 8. Communicating learning targets to students and ensuring lesson design provides instructional time, practice, and application for learning.
 - 9. Ensuring that remote time, practice, and application supports learning growth toward mastery of the Standard Course of Study.

- 10. Ensuring students with disabilities have equal access to remote instruction provided consistent with IEP or 504 plan.
- 11. Tracking and reporting attendance on remote instruction days, including protocols, reporting system, and parent communication.
- 12. Providing online and offline contact options for students to communicate with teachers/staff for remote instruction days not used as teacher workdays.
- 13. Providing support for students experiencing technical difficulties.





- > School Calendar Requirements:
 - Allows remote learning to satisfy minimum instructional requirements in 19-20; must continue through year-end.
 - Each LEA must adopt calendar with:
 - Opening date for students of 8/17/20, including those with good cause (weather) waivers;
 - Closing date for students by 6/11/21;
 - No remote instruction days before 8/24/20, 2020; and
 - Remote instruction days may be scheduled as teacher workdays.

LEAs with Good Cause Waivers:

May use up to an additional 5 remote instruction days only for make-up days for closures due to inclement weather or other emergency situations.

 All LEAs may use additional remote learning days to meet minimal instructional time requirements, IE a state of emergency is declared that closes schools for more than 5 days





- > School Calendar Requirements:
 - Mandates all LEAs to adopt 2020-21 calendar with 190 days of instruction with:
 - 185 days or 1,025 hours of instruction that includes 5 remote instruction days in accordance with the remote instruction plan; and
 - An additional 5 instructional days that can only be satisfied by individually separate and distinct full instruction days, not by hours.

Calendar Definitions:

- Modified Calendar Designated for 2003-04 school year or part of a planned program in that year.
- Year-Round Calendar Runs July 1-June 30 and must use one of following:
 - 1) Four tracks with 3 in & 1 out;
 - 2) 45 days in/15 out, repeated; or
 - 3) Five 9-week sessions with students required to attend 4.

Legislative Update for Superintendents May 7, 2020





Katherine Joyce, NCASA Executive Director

GCS 2020-2021 Calendar Proposal

May 18, 2020



Calendar Requirements - Review



Senate Bill 704

New Requirements to 2020-2021 School Calendar



SB 704 New Requirements

August 17th Start Date For Students



SB 704 New Requirement

Mandates all LEAs to adopt a 2020-2021 calendar with 190 days of instruction with (i) 185 or 1,025 hours of instruction that includes 5 remote instruction days in accordance with the remote instruction plan: and (ii) and additional 5 instructional days that can only be satisfied by individually separate and distinct full instruction days, not by hours.



SB 704 New Requirement

Remote learning days can be designated as Optional Teacher Workdays.



SB 704 New Requirement

Remote learning cannot begin before August 24th.



Revised Draft Calendar





Highlights of Draft Calendar

215 Staff Workdays

Remote Learning Days are October 9, November 3, November 25, December 21, and February 15

181 or 1077 hours of face to face and remote learning days

Graduation will be held on Saturday, May 29

Second semester begins on January 5 and ends on May 26

Seven inclement weather days are February 15, March 12, April 9, April 8, April 7, April 6, and April 5

There are 94 days of in person and remote learning

As many days as possible were kept the same as the original calendar

Parent conferences each semester: October 8 and March 11

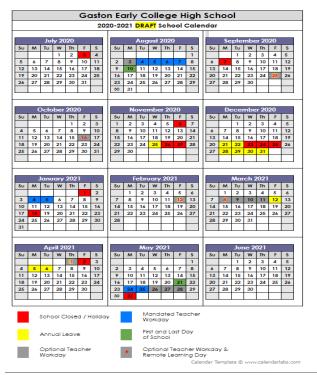


Gaston Early College High School Revised Calendar

Five additional remote learning days have been added to the calendar.



Gaston Early College High School Revised Calendar





Discovery Education-Contract

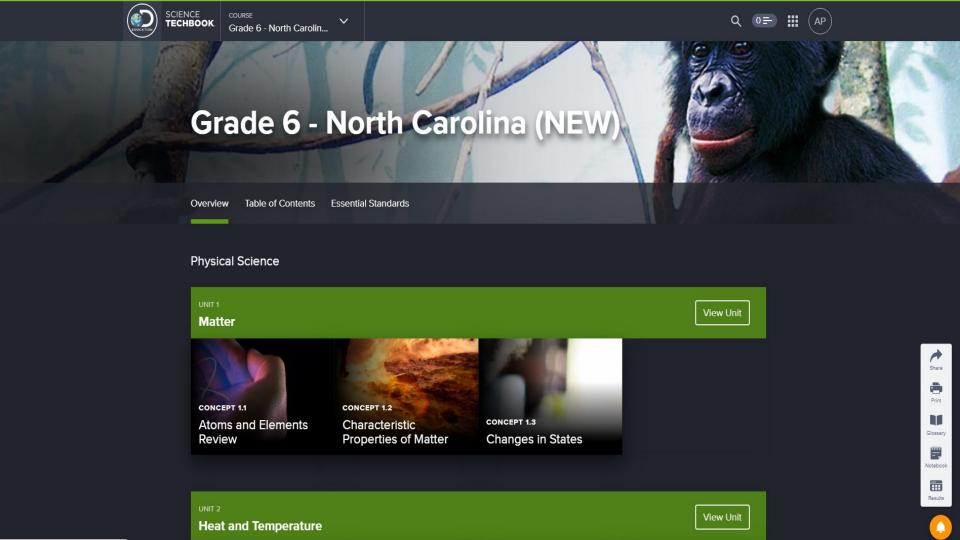
Board of Education Meeting May 18, 2020



Middle Schools







Discovery Education

 A 6-8 curriculum resource to support the NC Science Essential Standards

Changes the way students and teachers experience real-world science	Allows Engagement with Real-World Content	Research based and Industry Approved	Brings the Magic of Science to Life for All Learners
Built on the 5E model, Science Techbook provides exciting multimedia, virtual activities and hands-on labs with model lessons, STEM project starters, and standard-aligned assessments. This digital science textbook is a one-stop K-12 science resource offering everything students want and teachers need	Brings real-world, engaging educational content from partners like MythBusters, Cheddar, NBA, Shark Week, MLB and Street Science into the classroom. This ever-growing collection offers a variety of resources that mirror the unique interests of students, helping them make relevant and lasting connections between science and their everyday lives.	Award-winning digital curriculum that builds context and drives understanding of 21st Century skills while providing K-12 students with relevant career connections.	Specifically developed for diverse student audiences for ease of access. High quality multi-modal content is essential to improving academic vocabulary, breaking down barriers to learning, providing all students multiple ways to shine, and engaging students in higher-level thinking. Information is delievered through interactive games, multimedia resources, text-to-speech, the ability to adjust Lexile levels along with authentic Spanish translations.

Discovery Education-Contract



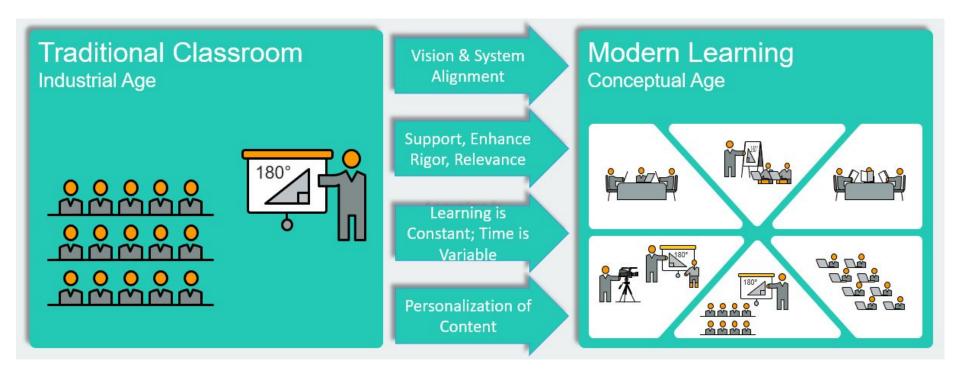
Modern Teacher- Contract

Board of Education Meeting May 18, 2020



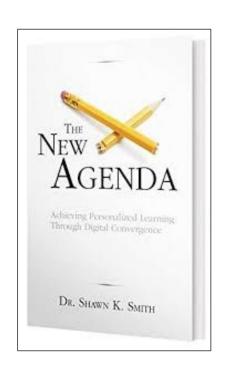


Envisioning the Modern Learning Environment



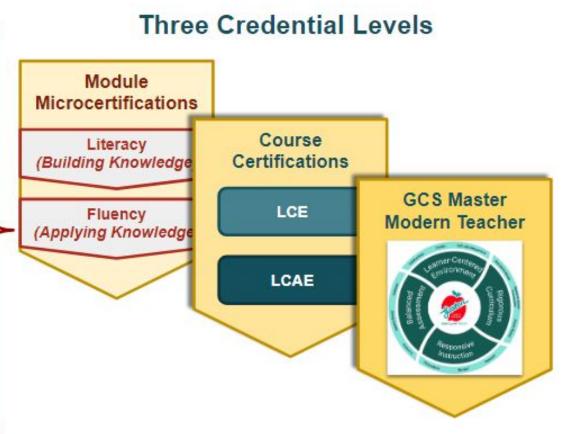
A New Partnership Emerges



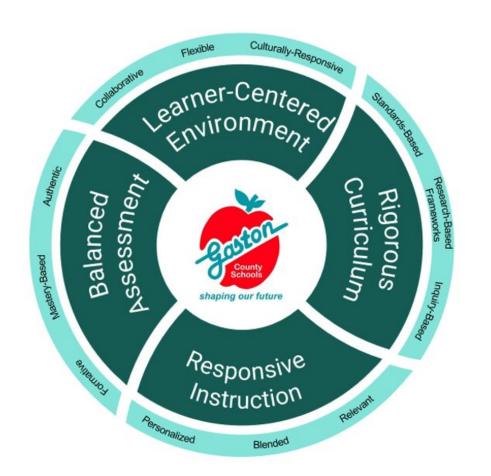




Six Online Modules Architect a Learner-Centered Culture Learner-Centered Two Blended Courses Environment Architect Procedures for a Modern Learning Environment Architect a Modern Physical Learning Environment Architect a Lesson Using Leamer-Centered Academic Environment Effective Pedagogy Architect a Rigorous Learning Experience **Architect a Digital Learning Environment**



A Vision for a Modern Learning Environment



Our focus in Academic Services is **Transforming Instruction** which means "coaching for a culture of growth with an emphasis on subgroups through the institutionalization of established practices and district initiatives."



Modern Teacher- Contract

