

GASTON COUNTY
BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR SESSION



Shaping Our Future

943 Osceola Street, Gastonia, NC 28054

April 19, 2021

5:30 p.m.

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 4/19/2021

Agenda Item Title/Topic: Agenda Adoption

Type of Item: Consent Action Information

Main Points:

Consideration of Formal Agenda for Monday, April 19, 2021.

Roberts Rules of Order (Revised) adoption of Agenda for meeting sequence and structure.

Fiscal Implications:

None

Recommendation:

Adoption of Agenda

Policy Implications:

None

Strategic Goal Alignment:

Goal 1. Every student will graduate prepared for post-secondary opportunities.

Submitted by: Dr. W. Jeffrey Booker **Department:** Superintendent/Public Information

GASTON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Jeff K. Ramsey - Chairman

Dot Cherry - Vice Chairman

Kevin L. Collier, Riverbend Township
Justin N. Davis, South Point Township
Lee Dedmon, Gastonia Township
Dot Guthrie, Gastonia Township



Steve Hall, Dallas Township
Robbie Lovelace, Cherryville Township
Brent Moore, Crowders Mountain Township

943 Osceola Street, Gastonia, NC 28054

Monday, April 19, 2021

5:30 p.m.

Agenda

Regular Meeting

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XX. Superintendent’s Comments

XXI. Closed Session – N.C.G.S. §143-318.11(a)(6) Personnel

– N.C.G.S. §143-318.11(a)(3) Consultation with Attorney

In order to consult with the Board’s attorney and protect the attorney client privilege, and to receive advice with respect to the lawsuit captioned
 —19-CVS-3893 McKinney et al. vs. Goins and The Gaston County Board of Education, and

—Any other legal matters.

XXII. Adjournment

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 4/19/2021

Agenda Item Title/Topic: Good News

Type of Item: Consent Action Information

Main Points:

Each month, the Communications/Public Information Department compiles “Good News” about our schools, students, employees, and community partners. See attachment.

Fiscal Implications:

None

Recommendation:

None

Policy Implications:

None

Strategic Goal Alignment:

Goal 1. Every student will graduate prepared for post-secondary opportunities.

Submitted by: Todd Hagans, Chief Communications Officer

Department: Communications/Public Information (Superintendent's Office)

BOARD AGENDA INFORMATIONAL ITEM

DEPARTMENT: Communications/Public
Information Department

TOPIC: GOOD NEWS

FOR THE MONTH OF: April 2021

1. The five finalists for **Gaston County Schools** Central Office Administrator of the Year are **Brett Buchanan**, Career and Technical Education; **Chad Duncan**, Athletics; **Shannon Hullett**, Academic Services; **Curtis Poplin**, Technology; and **Alan Sprout**, Technology.
2. The five finalists for **Gaston County Schools** New Teacher of the Year are **Hayley Bigelow**, **Holbrook Middle**; **Elizabeth Inzana**, **Hunter Huss High School**; **Madison Szucs**, **Robinson Elementary**; **Vekiza Williams**, **Woodhill Elementary**; and **Olivia Wylie**, **Stanley Middle**.
3. The five finalists for **Gaston County Schools** Teacher Assistant of the Year are **Jenny Emerson**, **Cherryville Elementary**; **Dana Hannifin**, **Springfield Elementary**; **Wanda Marlowe**, **Catawba Heights Elementary**; **Giana McGuire**, **Pinewood Elementary**; and **Peyton Walls**, **Stanley Middle**.
4. **Abbie Clark** of **Costner Elementary** and **W.C. Friday Middle School** was named the Gaston County School Nurse of the Year, **Julie-Ann Garcia Acosta** of **Gardner Park Elementary** was named the School Social Worker of the Year, and **David Rice** of **Ashbrook High School** was named the School Counselor of the Year.
5. **Gaston County Schools** in collaboration with the Gaston County Museum of Art and History sponsored the annual "Through An Artist's Eyes" exhibit featuring 12 different categories: painting, photography, printmaking, sculpture, comic art, ceramics, digital art, color drawing, mixed media, fiber arts, crafts, and black and white drawing. **Stuart W. Cramer High School** senior **Molly Matthews** earned "Best in Show" for her award-winning piece titled "Everyday," and **Southwest Middle School** student **Camila Bonilla** earned "Best in Show" for her award-winning piece titled "In My Dreams." In addition, **North Gaston High School** student **Maria Casanova** received the James C. Biggers Award for her piece titled "Woman." The Director's Choice Awards were awarded to **Cherryville High School** student **Drake Lytton** for his painting titled "Basketball Basquiat" and **Grier Middle School** student **Kaylee Rojas** for her piece titled "Starry Starry Night."
6. The **Gaston County Schools** Career and Manufacturing Expo was held virtually this year at each middle school and high school. Students were able to hear about local career opportunities from Blum, Lanxess, Daimler, Dixon Quick Coupling, and GSM Services. The annual program is co-sponsored by the Gaston Business Association and Gaston College.

7. Middle school and high school students in **Gaston County Schools** are participating in the Students@Work program, which is a partnership with the N.C. Department of Public Instruction and the N.C. Business Committee for Education. Throughout the month, students are engaging in virtual programs to learn about potential career opportunities in Gaston County.
8. The “Do the Right Thing” award winners for March are **James McPherson** of **Page Primary**, **Jannah Perdomo** of **York Chester Middle School**, and **Zoe Espinoza** of **East Gaston High School**. The monthly recognition program, which is conducted in partnership with The Gaston Gazette, honors students for outstanding leadership, service, and character.
9. **Belmont Middle School** student **James Dover** won The Gaston Gazette Spelling Bee. He will go on to represent **Gaston County Schools** at the Scripps National Spelling Bee.
10. **W.A. Bess Elementary** media specialist **Julie Shatterly** and fifth grader **Mahi Patel** were featured in the March 2021 edition of “School Library Journal.”
11. **W.A. Bess Elementary** fourth grader **Paisley McKay** won second place in the “Art for Heart” contest and received a trophy, certificate, and gift card from the Heart Society of Gaston County.
12. **Molly Matthews** and **Tristan Nogueira** of **Stuart W. Cramer High School** were selected as nominees for the best actor and best actress awards in this year’s Blumey Awards, a program that recognizes students in the Charlotte region for their outstanding achievements in theater arts.
13. **Stuart W. Cramer High School** raised more \$150 for the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention.
14. The following **Stuart W. Cramer High School** athletic teams qualified for the Scholar-Athlete Team distinction that is awarded by the N.C. High School Athletic Association: boys’ soccer, boys’ and girls’ basketball, boys’ and girls’ swimming, boys’ and girls’ cross country, volleyball, and cheerleading. The academic honor is based on the combined grade point average for team members.
15. Classroom Central in Charlotte provided 150 boxes of school supplies for teachers in **Gaston County Schools**. Each box included pencils, pens, copy paper, crayons, color pencils, folders, notebooks, and more. The donated supplies were valued at approximately \$24,000. **Carr Elementary School** hosted a curbside pickup event for teachers to receive the supplies.
16. **Gardner Park Elementary** fifth grader **Kordak Denovese** received a full scholarship to attend the Junior National Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C. The program gives students an opportunity to engage in hands-on leadership activities and learn how to develop action plans to solve problems in their community.

17. **East Gaston High School** teacher **Brian Johnson** was selected as one of five finalists for Regeneron's STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) education and outreach effort. The Advancing Science Research Teaching (ASRT) program is designed to equip high school teachers with the knowledge, insight, and resources needed to increase research opportunities for students through the traditional STEM classroom setting, club programs, and related activities.
18. **East Gaston High School** senior **Callie Payne** received a \$110,000 scholarship to attend Lees-McRae College.
19. **Forestview High School** senior **Valerie Farfan** is one of four finalists for the George and Patricia Barnard Scholarship. She also is a finalist for the Wayne F. Shovelin Scholarship and accepted the Beaver Scholarship for Health Education to attend Appalachian State University.
20. **Forestview High School** senior **Foster Rouse** received his Eagle Scout honor. For his Eagle Scout project, he adapted toys for children with special needs and donated them to the **Gaston County Schools** Exceptional Children Department.
21. **Gaston Early College High School** student **Chloe Yurick** was accepted to attend Seton Hall University and received a \$75,000 scholarship.
22. **Highland School of Technology** junior **Joseph Norris** was accepted to participate in the U.S. Naval Academy Summer Seminar and the U.S. Air Force Academy Summer Seminar. Both sessions will be held virtually this summer.
23. In appreciation of their hard work and support of students, **Lingerfeldt Elementary** teachers and staff received coffee and doughnuts from Miss Gastonia Julia DeSerio and Miss Gaston County's Outstanding Teen **Alexandria Foy**, who is a student at **Stuart W. Cramer High School**.
24. **North Belmont Elementary** teacher **Vanessa Hairston** was selected to participate in the Kenan Fellows Program for Teacher Leadership at N.C. State University.
25. **Pinewood Elementary** teacher **Rebecca O'Bryon** is one of 30 educators from the United States who will be traveling to Nairobi, Kenya to visit award-winning educators and learn about the Kenyan educational system. While there, she will spend time with teachers who are making a difference in some of the most impoverished villages in the world.
26. **Rankin Elementary** students and staff collected 7,564 nonperishable items as part of the school's "Stock the Shelves with Kind Words" food drive. **LeeAnn Pearson's** second grade class collected the most items with 1,544. The top student was **Brayden Shrewbury**, who contributed 1,336 cans.
27. **Sherwood Elementary** conducted a campus beautification with help from members of the Laurel East Community Watch group.

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 4/19/2021

Agenda Item Title/Topic: Public Expression

Type of Item: Consent Action Information

Main Points:

The Board of Education agenda has been made available to the public for review. Citizens wishing to speak before the Board about an agenda item or other topic may do so during Public Expression.

Fiscal Implications:

None

Recommendation:

The Board of Education will establish time (30 minutes) at the beginning of the regular monthly meeting for Public Expression. Any citizen not heard during this time may be heard at the end of the business session.

Policy Implications:

None

Strategic Goal Alignment:

Goal 1. Every student will graduate prepared for post-secondary opportunities.

Submitted by: Todd Hagans, Chief Communications Officer

Department: Communications/Public Information (Superintendent's Office)

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 4/19/2021

Agenda Item Title/Topic: Approval/Correction of Minutes

Type of Item: Consent Action Information

Main Points:

Approval of Minutes of:

March 15, 2021

Efficient consideration of matters pertinent to the successful operation of the school system.

Fiscal Implications:

None

Recommendation:

None

Policy Implications:

Validation of Board Proceedings.

Strategic Goal Alignment:

Goal 1. Every student will graduate prepared for post-secondary opportunities.

Submitted by: Dr. W. Jeffrey Booker

Department: Superintendent

**Gaston County Schools
Board of Education
Monday, March 15, 2021
Meeting 5:30 p.m.**

MINUTES

The Gaston County Board of Education met in a regular session on Monday, March 15, 2021 in the Board Room, 943 Osceola Street, Gastonia, NC. The Board of Education meeting was held virtually and conducted in accordance with social distancing requirements related to the coronavirus pandemic. The meeting was live on Spectrum Cable Channel 21 and the Gaston County Board of Education YouTube page. Those Board Members in attendance were: Chairman Jeff K. Ramsey, Vice Chairman Dot Cherry, Kevin Collier, Justin Davis, Lee Dedmon, Dot Guthrie (virtual), Steve Hall, Robbie Lovelace and Brent Moore.

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

Chairman Ramsey called the meeting to order at 5:33 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. 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 individuals and events worthy of recognition this afternoon. Superintendent Booker shared the following items of good news:

Superintendent Booker announced that we have 15 high school students who have been chosen to attend the prestigious North Carolina Governor’s School program.

Superintendent Booker recognized the five outstanding school administrators who have been chosen as finalists for Gaston County Principal of the Year. The winner will be announced this spring as part of our Evening of Excellence celebration. The finalists are:

- Kevin Doran – Cherryville High School
- Jill Payne – Hawks Nest STEAM Academy
- Loretta Reed – Woodhill Elementary
- Torben Ross – Robinson Elementary
- Tyler West – Pinewood Elementary

Superintendent Booker recognized Stuart W. Cramer High School theater arts director Chuck Stowe who is serving this year as president of the North Carolina Theater Arts Educators organization. One of his duties as president is signing the statewide “Theater in Our Schools” Month proclamation that brings attention to the importance of theater arts in our schools.

Superintendent Booker thanked the Greater Charlotte Auto Dealers Association for donating more than 3,000 bottles of hand sanitizer to Gaston County Schools.

Superintendent Booker congratulated Bessemer City High School senior Kaytlinn Lawson who won first place in the Keep Gastonia Beautiful Arbor Day art contest.

Superintendent Booker reported that Page Primary has installed a new art kiln at the school which was bought with funds raised through the school’s virtual dance-a-thon.

Superintendent Booker reported that New Hope Elementary collected more than \$12,000 for the American Heart Association.

Superintendent Booker thanked the community volunteers from the United Way’s Reading Soul Mates program who are working virtually with students at Sherwood Elementary to build their literacy skills and a love for reading.

Superintendent Booker thanked teachers at Pleasant Ridge Elementary who teamed up with the Gaston County Virtual Academy to provide engaging and interactive experiences for fourth grade students in the following areas: art, music, physical education, band, innovation station and counseling.

Public Expression – Information

Ryan Simms
 105 N. Woodcliff Lane
 Mt. Holly, NC 28120
 RE: Retiring the Red Raider Mascot

Lena Ware
 2161 Southridge Drive
 Belmont, NC 28012
 RE: Retiring the Red Raider Mascot

Vy Hoang
 228 River Loop Road
 Belmont, NC 28012
 RE: Retiring the Red Raider Mascot

Mike Davis
107 Piedmont Road
Belmont, NC 28012
RE: Retiring the Red Raider Mascot
Although Mr. Davis completed the Request to Speak Form, he did not appear at the meeting.

Natalie O'Connor
3248 Ashwood Park Drive
Belmont, NC 28012
RE: Retiring the Red Raider Mascot

Rebecca LaClaire
No address given
RE: Retiring the Red Raider Mascot
Although Ms. LaClaire completed the Request to Speak Form, she did not appear at the meeting.

Wendy Moore
P.O. Box 1685
Pembroke, NC 28372
RE: Retiring the Red Raider Mascot
Although Ms. Moore completed the Request to Speak Form, she did not appear at the meeting.

Hayley Brezeale
1850 Ashley Crossing Lane
Charleston, SC 29414
RE: Retiring the Red Raider Mascot

Jason Rumfelt
4502 Brent Wood Drive
Belmont, NC 28012
RE: Keeping the Red Raider Mascot

Lauren Frady
1327 Perfection Avenue
Belmont, NC 28012
RE: Retiring the Red Raider Mascot

Approval/Correction of Minutes

The Board considered Approval/Correction of Minutes – Action

Motion to adopt minutes of December 7, 2020 (Organizational Meeting), February 1, 2021 (Legislative Meeting), February 8, 2021 (Special Meeting) and February 15, 2021 (Regular Meeting).

Ms. Dot Cherry requested correction be made to the December 7, 2020 minutes (page 12 fourth paragraph should read Chairman Ramsey opened the floor for...).

Motion to adopt minutes as corrected was made by Ms. Dot Cherry; seconded by Mr. Brent Moore; motion carried unanimously. (9-0)

COVID-19 Update - Information

Chairman Ramsey recognized Superintendent Booker who introduced Danny Benjamin, MD PhD Professor of Pediatrics, Duke University and Co-Chair, ABC Science Collaborative. Dr. Benjamin presented a PowerPoint on COVID-19 Update. Superintendent Booker presented a PowerPoint on Re-Entry Action Taken to Date. Discussion Followed.

Motion

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

Move to Plan A districtwide beginning April 12, 2021 four (4) days per week with Wednesday being a remote day for students and to authorize the Superintendent to temporarily close schools or classrooms based on exposures in the class or the school and to continue to suspend policies where necessary due to COVID-19.

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

(View PowerPoints)

Operations Committee Report - Information

Chairman Ramsey recognized Ms. Dot Cherry of the Operations Committee who provided a summary of topics considered and discussed at the most recent meeting.

(View report)

Curriculum & Instruction Committee Report - Information

Chairman Ramsey recognized Mrs. Robbie Lovelace of the Curriculum & Instruction Committee who provided a summary of topics considered and discussed at the most recent meeting.

(View report)

Gaston County Schools Calendar 2021-2022 - Action

Chairman Ramsey recognized Mr. Joey Clinton who presented a PowerPoint on School Calendar Survey Data. Discussion followed.

Motion

Motion was made by Mr. Lee Dedmon; seconded by Mr. Justin Davis that the Board

Approve the Gaston County Schools Second Draft Calendar for 2021-2022

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

(View PowerPoint)

Gaston Early College Calendar 2021-2022 - Action

Chairman Ramsey recognized Mr. Joey Clinton who presented the Gaston Early College draft calendar for 2021-2022. Discussion followed.

Motion was made by Mr. Lee Dedmon; seconded by Mr. Justin Davis that the Board

Approve the Gaston Early College Calendar for 2021-2022

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

(View Calendar)

Chairman Ramsey requested a brief break at 7:15 p.m. due to the length of the meeting. The meeting resumed at 7:25 p.m.

2021-2022 Superintendent's Budget Request – Information

Chairman Ramsey recognized Mr. Gary Hoskins who presented a PowerPoint on Superintendent's Budget Request. Discussion followed.

(View PowerPoint)

Funding for Capital Projects – Action

Chairman Ramsey recognized Mr. Gary Hoskins who gave an update on funding for Capital Projects. Proceeds received from the sale of school bond funds are deposited by the County into an interest-bearing account. As the school district uses these funds, the funds are withdrawn from the County's interest-bearing account and used for the authorized capital needs of the school district. Over time, the interest earned on these unused school bond proceeds increases and needs to be reallocated back to the school district. We must request approval from the County to reallocate funds in order to be able to use these funds for the capital needs of the school district.

In 2016, the County issued \$50 million bonds for the purpose of building the new Pleasant Ridge Elementary School and Stanley Middle School. These two schools were completed under budget resulting in unused proceeds of \$707,550. We must request approval from the County to reallocate these funds in order to be able to use these funds for the capital needs of the school district. These reallocated funds would be used to provide funding for a paving project at Bessemer City Middle School.

Motion

Motion was made by Ms. Dot Cherry; seconded by Mr. Brent Moore that the Board

Authorize the Superintendent or his designee to request that Gaston County Commissioners reallocate interest earned from school bonds in the amount of \$2,053,668 to be used to fund capital projects throughout the district. Also, authorize the Superintendent or his designee to request that the unused principal from the 2016 school bond in the amount of \$707,550 be reallocated for the purpose of funding a paving project at Bessemer City Middle School.

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

Academic Services Update – Information

Chairman Ramsey recognized Dr. Balknight who introduced staff. Staff presented a PowerPoint on Academic Services Update. Discussion followed.

(View PowerPoint)

High School Exam Schedules – Spring 2021-2022 Traditional High Schools and Gaston Early College – Action

Chairman Ramsey recognized Mrs. Cristi Bostic who presented a PowerPoint on Exam Schedules. Discussion followed.

Motion

Motion was made by Mr. Justin Davis; seconded by Mr. Lee Dedmon that the Board
Approve Final Exam Schedule for Traditional High Schools and Gaston Early College

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. Ashbrook High School Elevator Update
- E. Highland School of Technology Renovations
- F. Hunter Huss Auditorium Renovation
- G. Southwest Middle School Elevator Update
- H. Contracts
 - School Nurses Contract Update

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

Superintendent's Comments

Superintendent Booker announced that registration for kindergarten and pre-kindergarten is taking place now and parents can complete the registration process on the district website.

Superintendent Booker reported that one year ago Governor Cooper announced the closure of school buildings as concerns about the coronavirus swept across the country. That was the beginning of “unprecedented times” for school districts as we “navigated the uncharted waters” of conducting school like we never have before. All of us are cautiously optimistic that we are turning the corner with the pandemic, but we know that we must stay vigilant. As we continue to look forward to better days and an eventual return to normal, we cannot say “thank you” enough for the leadership and support we have experienced over the past year from the board room to the classroom.

Superintendent Booker thanked our local healthcare partners, the Gaston County Department of Health and Human Services and CaroMont Health for their efforts to provide the COVID-19 vaccine for educators.

Superintendent Booker announced that report cards will be distributed for all grade levels on Thursday, March 18.

Superintendent Booker announced that Friday, April 2 is the spring holiday which means no school for students and employees and our central office locations will be closed. The week of April 5-9 is spring break week and our school buildings will be closed and central office buildings will be supporting any concerns.

Chairman Ramsey wished Mrs. Robbie Lovelace a "Happy Birthday."

Closed Session

Chairman Ramsey 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. Justin Davis; motion carried unanimously. (9-0)

The Board went into Closed Session at 8:23 p.m.

The Board returned to Open Session at 8:29 p.m.

On behalf of the Board Mr. Kevin Collier reported the following:

The lawsuit captioned *T.J. Solomon, II as Guardian Ad Litem for A. Payne vs. The Gaston County Board of Education, Joey Clinton and Lorinda Brusie*, in Gaston County Superior Court, Case No. 19-CVS-319 has been settled. The Board's insurer, Liberty Mutual Insurance Company, agreed to pay plaintiff \$70,000 in exchange for a full dismissal of the litigation. The settlement is not an admission of liability, but rather a strategic decision by the Board's insurance company to avoid the costs of further litigation and to obtain a dismissal and full release of all claims. A copy of the settlement agreement will be maintained in the Board's records.

Adjournment

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

The Board Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Approved:

Jeff K. Ramsey, Chairman
[Corporate Seal]

W. Jeffrey Booker, Secretary

Date Approved: _____

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 4/19/2021

Agenda Item Title/Topic: COVID-19 Update

Type of Item: Consent Action Information

Main Points:

Gaston County Schools (GCS) alongside Gaston County Department of Health and Human Services continue to partner in managing COVID-19 related concerns. The partnership aligns with our District priority to keep students and employees safe and members of the public informed.

The Department of Health and Human Services communicates regularly with GCS leadership to address concerns or issues involving staff and students.

The agenda item will update the Board of Education on the district's COVID-19 response and day-to-day district operations.

Fiscal Implications:

N/A

Recommendation:

Continue supporting Health Services' management of COVID-19 responsibilities.

Policy Implications:

N/A

Strategic Goal Alignment:

Goal 5. Every student has the opportunity to learn in a safe school environment.

Submitted by: W. Jeffrey Booker

Department: Superintendent

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 4/19/2021

Agenda Item Title/Topic: Curriculum & Instruction Committee Report

Type of Item: Consent Action Information

Main Points:

The Gaston County Board of Education's Curriculum and Instruction Committee will report to the Board regarding current committee projects and issues.

A Curriculum and Instruction Committee member will present a report of committee activities occurring since the last Board of Education Meeting.

Fiscal Implications:

None

Recommendation:

None

Policy Implications:

Board will be informed of Curriculum and Instruction projects and issues.

Strategic Goal Alignment:

Goal 1. Every student will graduate prepared for post-secondary opportunities.

Submitted by: Curriculum and Instruction Committee

Department: Curriculum and Instruction

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 4/19/2021

Agenda Item Title/Topic: Teacher Appreciation Week Proclamation

Type of Item: Consent Action Information

Main Points:

School districts across the United States are observing Teacher Appreciation Week, May 3-7, 2021.

To recognize Teacher Appreciation Week in Gaston County Schools, a proclamation is presented to the Board of Education for consideration and approval. (See the next page for the proclamation.)

Upon approval, a copy of the proclamation will be posted on the Gaston County Schools website.

Fiscal Implications:

None

Recommendation:

The recommendation is for the Board of Education to approve the Teacher Appreciation Week Proclamation. Doing so will signify the importance of observing Teacher Appreciation Week in Gaston County Schools.

Policy Implications:

None

Strategic Goal Alignment:

Goal 3. Every employee is capable and committed to the education of the whole child.

Submitted by: Todd Hagans, Chief Communications Officer

Department: Communications/Public Information (Superintendent's Office)

PRIDE



PROCLAMATION

Teacher Appreciation Week

MAY 3-7, 2021

WHEREAS, Gaston County Schools is pleased to join school districts across the United States in celebrating Teacher Appreciation Week (May 3-7) and National Teacher Day on Tuesday, May 4; and

WHEREAS, Teacher Appreciation Week is one of the most important annual observances in education because it brings attention to the teaching profession, which is worthy of honor and praise; and

WHEREAS, teachers in Gaston County Schools are often referred to as the “superheroes of public education” because they are a dynamic force in the learning process and work diligently every day to ensure that children discover, grow, and thrive in a safe, caring, and nurturing school environment; and

WHEREAS, during the COVID-19 pandemic, our teachers have gone beyond the call of duty to support students and families and provide continuity in academics through a blend of in-person instruction at school, remote learning at home, and full-time virtual learning; and

WHEREAS, our teachers in Gaston County Schools wholeheartedly embrace the responsibility of ensuring that children learn the knowledge and skills necessary to be successful in life beyond graduation, thus preparing them to become contributing members of our community.

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 3-7, 2021

Teacher Appreciation Week

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this proclamation be made a part of the minutes of the Board of Education, adopted this the nineteenth day of April, 2021.

Gaston
COUNTY SCHOOLS

shaping our future

Jeff K. Ramsey, Chairman
Gaston County Board of Education

W. Jeffrey Booker, Superintendent
Gaston County Schools

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 4/19/2021

Agenda Item Title/Topic: School Libraries and Media Coordinators Update

Type of Item: Consent Action Information

Main Points:

Media Services will provide information about the role of the School Librarian/Media Coordinators. Media Centers have received over \$200,000 to offset the impact of lost books before and during the pandemic. Numerous physical spaces have been updated and will be shown.

Fiscal Implications:

N/A

Recommendation:

Continue supporting school libraries and media coordinators.

Policy Implications:

N/A

Strategic Goal Alignment:

Goal 3. Every employee is capable and committed to the education of the whole child.

Submitted by: Melissa W. Balknight **Department:** Academic Services
Associate Superintendent of Academic Services

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 4/19/2021

Agenda Item Title/Topic: Camp Gaston Update

Type of Item: Consent Action Information

Main Points:

Gaston County Schools will offer in-person instruction for currently enrolled students in grades K-12. Students will be offered learning recovery, learning acceleration, and credit recovery. In addition, enrichment and physical activities will be included as a part of camp. Career technical camps/activities will be offered in middle and high school.

Fiscal Implications:

Utilize ESSER II funding for Camp Gaston.

Recommendation:

Support summer camp offerings for students, K-12.

Policy Implications:

N/A

Strategic Goal Alignment:

Goal 2. Every member of our diverse population has the opportunity for individualized instruction.

Submitted by: Melissa W. Balknight **Department:** Academic Services
Associate Superintendent of Academic Services

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 4/19/2021

Agenda Item Title/Topic: EOG/EOC Summer School

Type of Item: Consent Action Information

Main Points:

Students who do not meet proficiency on the EOG/EOC will attend summer school. Additional learning opportunities will be provided for those students.

Fiscal Implications:

N/A

Recommendation: Allow students to participate in EOG/EOC summer school as needed.

Policy Implications:

N/A

Strategic Goal Alignment:

Goal 2. Every member of our diverse population has the opportunity for individualized instruction.

Submitted by: Rebekka Powers

Department: Accountability

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 4/19/2021

Agenda Item Title/Topic: Title I Plan

Type of Item: Consent Action Information

Main Points:

Gaston County Schools has twenty-five elementary schools, four middle schools, and an alternative school that meet the criteria to receive Title I funds during the 2021/2022 school year. The district plans to set aside a percentage of the Title I allotment to support pre-kindergarten, professional development, parent involvement and other areas.

Fiscal Implications:

\$8.0 million Projected Allotment
\$1.2 million Carryover
\$9.2 million Available for Use

Recommendation:

Continue supporting Title I schools and initiatives.

Policy Implications:

N/A

Strategic Goal Alignment:

Goal 1. Every student will graduate prepared for post-secondary opportunities.

Submitted by: Melissa W. Balknight **Department:** Academic Services
Associate Superintendent of Academic Services

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 4/19/2021

Agenda Item Title/Topic: Academically and Intellectually Gifted (AIG) Plan

Type of Item: Consent Action Information

Main Points:

Inequities rooted in larger society have plagued education for decades, often leading to inequitable representation in gifted programs. North Carolina continues its efforts to change mindsets, policies and practices as part of a multi-year strategic initiative so that all students have opportunities to reach their full potential.

In an effort to use equitable practices for identifying gifted students in GCS, provide a range of services, foster talent development opportunities, and other actions to increase access and opportunity, which increases achievement and growth for all, the AIG Department would like to expand the Composer Program to include students from every Title I elementary school next year by expanding to Costner Elementary, Ida Rankin Elementary, Lowell Elementary, Pinewood Elementary, Pleasant Ridge Elementary and Robinson Elementary, and increase the number of Composer students in every Title I school over a 3 year period.

Fiscal Implications:

Hire six (6) AIG licensed itinerant teachers.

Recommendation:

Support the expansion of the AIG Composer Program.

Policy Implications:

N/A

Strategic Goal Alignment:

Goal 2. Every member of our diverse population has the opportunity for individualized instruction.

Submitted by: Diane Price

Department: Academic Services

Director of Academically and Intellectually Gifted Services

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 4/19/2021

Agenda Item Title/Topic: Resolution to Request Allocation of 2018 Bond Funds

Type of Item: Consent Action Information

Main Points:

The Gaston County Board of Education (BOE) and the Gaston County Board of Commissioners sought and received voter approval of \$250 million in general obligation bonds in May 2018. The request outlined the development of additional school buildings and other school facilities, as well as enlarging and renovating existing school buildings and other school facilities. The BOE has utilized the 2018 bond funds from a \$40 million issuance in November 2018. These funds were used to build a new Belmont Middle School and provide needed funding for capital projects at other schools throughout the district. These projects included new roofs, HVAC systems, paving, life safety initiatives and other important capital investments.

Fiscal Implications:

There are \$190 million in unissued proceeds from the 2018 bond.

Recommendation:

We recommend that the BOE approve the attached Resolution to Request Allocation of 2018 Bond Funds and that the Resolution be presented to the Gaston County Board of Commissioners for their consideration. These funds would be used to develop and construct a new school and provide funding for other capital needs at our other schools.

Policy Implications:

N/A

Strategic Goal Alignment:

Goal 5. Every student has the opportunity to learn in a safe school environment.

Submitted by: Gary F. Hoskins, CFO and
Associate Superintendent
for Finance and Operations

Department: Finance

**RESOLUTION OF REQUEST FOR APPROVAL AND APPROPRIATION FOR
GASTON COUNTY SCHOOLS**

WHEREAS, in May 2018, the citizens of Gaston County approved a \$250 million bond referendum to provide adequate school facilities for the students and employees of Gaston County Schools; and

WHEREAS, the referendum proposed the building of several new schools to accommodate the anticipated growth of the Gaston region; and

WHEREAS, the facilities which currently house the students are in desperate need of repair, renovation and reconstruction; and

WHEREAS, these needs have been outlined in a Capital Improvement Plan totaling in excess of \$700 million; and

WHEREAS, the 2018 bond referendum authorizing \$250 million in school bonds proposed using the funds for new school construction, school additions, and renovations and repairs; and

WHEREAS, since the \$250 million bonds were authorized in 2018, the County issued \$60 million in funding that has been provided to construct a 160,000 square foot replacement middle school in Belmont, NC and numerous needed renovations and repairs at existing schools including new roofs, updated life safety and security systems, more efficient lighting and HVAC systems, site improvements, etc.; and

WHEREAS, Gaston County Schools has either used or dedicated approximately 98 percent of the issued \$60 million in funding for the purposes cited above; and

WHEREAS, the Gaston County Board of Education has determined that multiple facility needs can be addressed by using the remaining bond proceeds and that there remains the need for the construction of additional school facilities due to population growth and the age of many of our facilities.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Gaston County Board of Education requests that the Gaston County Board of Commissioners appropriate additional funds from the 2018 Bond Referendum to be used for enlarging, renovating and maintaining existing school buildings and other school plant facilities and for the purchase of land (if needed) and construction of one additional school facility.

Adopted this _____ day of _____, 2021.

Gaston County Schools

Superintendent: _____

Gaston County Board of Education

Chair: _____

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 4/19/2021

Agenda Item Title/Topic: 2021-2022 Gaston County Schools Budget Request

Type of Item: Consent Action Information

Main Points:

The school district is required by G.S. §115C-425 to operate under an annual balanced budget resolution. The 2021-2022 budget process began with a budget survey to GCS stakeholders in December 2020. Data obtained from the budget surveys was presented to the Board at the Board Retreat in January 2021 and Fund Managers prepared a budget request for their area of supervision in February 2021. Meetings were held with the Finance Budget Team and members of the Cabinet and/or Fund Managers to review the various budget requests. The Superintendent's Budget Request is based on information received from our stakeholders and Fund Managers and was presented to the Board of Education on March 15, 2021. The final budget request will be submitted to the County by May 15, 2021 as required by State law.

Fiscal Implications:

N/A

Recommendation:

Approval of the 2021-2022 Gaston County Schools Budget Request.

Policy Implications:

Board Policy 8100 – Budget Planning and Adoption

Strategic Goal Alignment:

Other: Policy or Gen Statute. See above.

Submitted by: Gary F. Hoskins, CFO and Associate Superintendent for Finance and Operations

Department: Finance

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 4/19/2021

Agenda Item Title/Topic: Consent Agenda

Type of Item: Consent Action Information

Main Points:

Approval of the Consent Agenda by the Board for the following items:

- A. Recommended Personnel
- B. Budget Amendments & Budget Transfers
- C. Construction/Repair Change Orders
- D. Anti-Microbial Air Cleaners
- E. Purchase of Digital Two-Way Radios
- F. HVAC System Cleaning
- G. Purchase of Riding Floor Scrubbers
- H. Contracts
 - Microsoft Software Agreement
 - Actively Learn/Achieve Math (6-12)
 - Assessing Math Concepts (K-2)
 - Bayada
 - BrightStar Care
 - Community Residential Funds
 - Continuum
 - Developmental Day Funds
 - Discovery Education (K-8)
 - The Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services
 - Edgenuity
 - Edpuzzle (K-12)
 - Educator's Handbook (K-12)
 - Fluent
 - Get Better Faster (K-12)
 - Curriculum Associates (K-8)
 - IXL (K-12)
 - Leader in Me (K-12)
 - Learning A-Z (K-5)

- Modern Teacher (K-12)
- Public Consulting Group
- Schoolnet (K-12)
- Schoology (K-5)
- S.P.I.R.E. Reading Instruction
- Support Inc.
- Thrive

Fiscal Implications:

None

Recommendation:

Consent items will be adopted with a single motion, second and vote, unless a request for removal from the Consent Agenda is heard from a Board Member.

Policy Implications:

None

Strategic Goal Alignment:

Goal 1. Every student will graduate prepared for post-secondary opportunities.

Submitted by: Dr. W. Jeffrey Booker

Department: Superintendent

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 4/19/2021

Agenda Item Title/Topic: Recommended Personnel

Type of Item: Consent Action Information

Main Points:

In accordance with the provisions of G.S. 115C-276(j), "It shall be the duty of the Superintendent to recommend and the Board of Education to elect all principals, teachers and other school personnel in the administrative unit." It is also within the powers of the Board to hear requests for approved leave, retirement and resignations or terminations in accordance with employment and dismissal regulations.

Fiscal Implications:

N/A

Recommendation:

Approve personnel as recommended.

Policy Implications:

Necessary and appropriate personnel will be provided to assure successful administration of schools.

Strategic Goal Alignment:

Other: Policy or Gen Statute. See above.

Submitted by: Dr. W. Jeffrey Booker, Superintendent **Department:** Human Resources

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 4/19/2021

Agenda Item Title/Topic: Budget Amendments and Budget Transfers

Type of Item: Consent Action Information

Main Points:

Budget amendments are needed to adjust the approved budget to reflect actual changes in revenue and budget transfers are needed to transfer money to proper expenditure codes as requested by fund managers.

Fiscal Implications:

Makes adjustments to the 2020-21 budget.

Recommendation:

Approval of the attached listing of recommended budget amendments and transfers.

Policy Implications:

Policy Code: 8300 Fiscal Management Standards

Strategic Goal Alignment:

Other: Policy or Gen Statute. See above.

Submitted by: Gary F. Hoskins, CFO and
Associate Superintendent
for Finance and Operations

Department: Finance

**Gaston County Schools
Changes in Appropriations**

**2020-2021 Budget Resolution - March
Transfers Between Functions**

State Public School Fund

Function	Description	Expense Increase	Expense Decrease
5100	Regular Instructional Services		409,874
5200	Special Population Services	29,771	
5300	Alternative Programs and Services		308,241
5400	School Leadership Services	77,570	
5800	School-Based Support Services	464,768	
6100	Support and Development Services		75,406
6200	Special Population Support and Development Services	20,069	
6400	Technology Support Services	1,494	
6500	Operational Support Services	51,916	
6600	Financial and Human Resource Services	118,243	
6700	Accountability Services		229
6800	System-Wide Pupil Support Services		124
6900	Policy, Leadership and Communication/Public Information Services		11,438
7200	Alternative Programs and Services Support	49,213	
8100	Payments to Other Governmental Units		7,732
		<u>813,044</u>	<u>813,044</u>

Explanation: These transfers adjust budgeted amounts per requests from fund managers/principals.

**Gaston County Schools
Changes in Appropriations**

**2020-2021 Budget Resolution - March
Transfers Between Functions**

Local Current Expense Fund

Function	Description	Expense Increase	Expense Decrease
5100	Regular Instructional Services		328,069
5200	Special Population Services	24,781	
5300	Alternative Programs and Services	441	
5400	School Leadership Services		45,232
5500	Co-Curricular Services	195,837	
5800	School-Based Support Services		514
6100	Support and Development Services	3,480	
6200	Special Population Support and Development Services	1,140	
6300	Alternative Programs and Services Support	1,162	
6400	Technology Support Services		19,687
6500	Operational Support Services		30,467
6600	Financial and Human Resource Services	38,356	
6700	Accountability Services		13,423
6800	System-Wide Pupil Support Services		5,803
6900	Policy, Leadership and Communication/Public Information Services	83,497	
8100	Payments to Other Governmental Units	94,500	
		<u>443,195</u>	<u>443,195</u>

Explanation: These transfers adjust budgeted amounts per requests from fund managers/principals.

**Gaston County Schools
Changes in Appropriations**

**2020-2021 Budget Resolution - March
Transfers Between Functions**

Federal Grants Fund

Function	Description	Expense Increase	Expense Decrease
5100	Regular Instructional Services	111,157	
5200	Special Population Services		356,294
5300	Alternative Programs and Services		218,841
5400	School Leadership Services		36,000
5500	Co-Curricular Services	51,000	
5800	School-Based Support Services	546,454	
6100	Support and Development Services	609	
6200	Special Population Support and Development Services		500
6500	Operational Support Services		100,474
6700	Accountability Services	550	
6900	Policy, Leadership and Communication/Public Information Services	2,646	
8100	Payments to Other Governmental Units		307
		<u>712,415</u>	<u>712,415</u>

Explanation: These transfers adjust budgeted amounts per requests from fund managers/principals.

**Gaston County Schools
Changes in Appropriations**

**2020-2021 Budget Resolution - March
Transfers Between Functions**

Restricted Grants Fund

Function	Description	Expense Increase	Expense Decrease
5100	Regular Instructional Services		32,883
5200	Special Population Services		200
5300	Alternative Programs and Services		3,550
6100	Support and Development Services		2,903
6200	Special Population Support and Development Services	200	
6500	Operational Support Services	3,550	
8100	Payments to Other Governmental Units	35,786	
		<u>39,536</u>	<u>39,536</u>

Explanation: These transfers adjust budgeted amounts per requests from fund managers/principals.

**Gaston County Schools
Changes in Appropriations**

**2020-2021 Budget Resolution - March
Proposed Expenditures and Sources of Revenue**

State Public School Fund

#	Function	Description	Expense Increase (Decrease)	Revenue Increase (Decrease)
1	3100	Revenue - State Public School Fund		8,389
	5100	Regular Instructional Services	8,389	
		This amendment adjusts the Classroom Teachers allotment for the New Teacher Orientation & Funding - Allotment Revision #47 FY21 (PRC001)		
2	3100	Revenue - State Public School Fund		8,075
	5400	School Leadership Services	8,075	
		This amendment adjusts the Non-Instructional Support allotment for January & February Sub Pay - Allotment Revisions #47 FY21 (PRC003)		
3	3100	Revenue - State Public School Fund		82,637
	5100	Regular Instructional Services	82,584	
	5800	School-Based Support Services	54	
		This amendment adjusts the Non-Contributory Employee Benefits allotment to account for February expenses FY21 (PRC009)		
4	3100	Revenue - State Public School Fund		542,230
	5100	Regular Instructional Services	511,044	
	5800	School-Based Support Services	31,186	
		This amendment adjusts the Dollars for Certified Personnel allotment for Classroom Teachers' ABC Waiver - Allotment Revision #49 FY21 (PRC010)		
5	3100	Revenue - State Public School Fund		383,125
	5300	Alternative Programs and Services	383,125	
		This amendment budgets the Summer Reading Camps allotment - Allotment Revisions #50 FY21 (PRC016)		
6	3100	Revenue - State Public School Fund		68,437
	5800	School-Based Support Services	68,437	
		This amendment budgets the Digital Learning allotment - Allotment Revisions #46 FY21 (PRC030)		
7	3100	Revenue - State Public School Fund		(27)
	5100	Regular Instructional Services	(27)	
		This amendment adjusts the Test Results Bonus (Teacher) allotment to actual - FY21 (PRC045)		

State Public School Fund

#	Function	Description	Expense Increase (Decrease)	Revenue Increase (Decrease)
8	3100	Local Sources - Restricted		13,967
	6500	Operational Support Services	13,967	
		This amendment adjusts the Transportation allotment for Early College 1st Semester Allotment - Allotment Revision #50 FY21 (PRC056)		
9	3100	Revenue - State Public School Fund		(133,165)
	5100	Regular Instructional Services	(133,165)	
		This amendment adjusts the Classroom Materials allotment for Classroom Teachers' ABC Waiver - Allotment Revision #49 FY21 (PRC061)		
10	3100	Local Sources - Restricted		(405,000)
	5300	Alternative Programs and Services	(405,000)	
		This amendment adjusts the At-Risk Student Services allotment for ABC Waiver - Allotment Revisions #49 FY21 (PRC069)		
11	3100	Local Sources - Restricted		(100,000)
	5100	Regular Instructional Services	(100,000)	
		This amendment adjusts the Textbooks allotment for LEA Reduction for Charter Schools - Allotment Revision #49 FY21 (PRC130)		
12	3100	Local Sources - Restricted		100,000
	5100	Regular Instructional Services	100,000	
		This amendment adjusts the Textbook allotment for ABC Waivers to fund Textbook & Digital Resources - Allotment Revision #49 FY21 (PRC131)		
Total State Public School Fund Amendments			568,669	568,669

**Gaston County Schools
Changes in Appropriations**

**2020-2021 Budget Resolution - March
Proposed Expenditures and Sources of Revenue**

Local Current Expense Fund

#	Function	Description	Expense Increase (Decrease)	Revenue Increase (Decrease)
1	4800	Local Sources - Restricted		17,543
	5100	Regular Instructional Services	17,543	
		This amendment budgets the E-Rate Technology allotment FY21 (PRC519)		
Total Local Current Expense Fund Account			17,543	17,543

**Gaston County Schools
Changes in Appropriations**

**2020-2021 Budget Resolution - March
Proposed Expenditures and Sources of Revenue**

Federal Grants Fund

#	Function	Description	Expense Increase (Decrease)	Revenue Increase (Decrease)
1	3600	Federal Revenue		3,731
	5200	Special Population Services	3,731	
		This amendment budgets additional funds for the IDEA VI-B State Improvement Grant - FY21 (PRC082)		
2	3600	Federal Revenue		(109,968)
	5300	Alternative Programs and Services	(125,197)	
	5800	School-Based Support Services	20,142	
	6300	Alternative Programs and Services Support	(4,960)	
	8100	Payments to Other Governmental Units	47	
		This amendment budgets the funds received for 21st Century Grant allotment - FY21 (PRC110)		
3	3600	Federal Revenue		453,220
	5800	School-Based Support Services	453,220	
		This amendment budgets the Children with Special Needs DEC Grant - FY21 (PRC114)		
Total Federal Grant Fund Amendments			346,983	346,983

**Gaston County Schools
Changes in Appropriations**

**2020-2021 Budget Resolution - March
Proposed Expenditures and Sources of Revenue**

Restricted Grants Fund			Expense Increase (Decrease)	Revenue Increase (Decrease)
#	Function	Description		
1	3700	Local Sources - Restricted		28,904
	5100	Regular Instructional Services	28,904	
		This amendment budgets the ROTC Teachers funds for FY21 (PRC001)		
2	4800	Local Sources - Restricted		107,793
	6600	Financial and Human Resource Services	107,793	
		This amendment adjusts the Central Office Administration budget to account for expenses for FY21 (PRC002)		
3	4800	Local Sources - Restricted		2,660
	5100	Regular Instructional Services	2,660	
		This amendment adjusts the Teacher Assistant budget to account for expenses for FY21 (PRC027)		
4	4800	Local Sources - Restricted		425
	6600	Financial and Human Resource Services	425	
		This amendment adjusts the ID Badges-Human Resource's Department to account for expenses for FY21 (PRC528)		
			<u>139,781</u>	<u>139,781</u>

Total Restricted Grants Fund Amendments

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 4/19/2021

Agenda Item Title/Topic: Construction/Repair Change Orders

Type of Item: Consent Action Information

Main Points:

Attached is a listing of construction and repair change orders that were submitted since the last Board meeting. Any change orders that were less than \$100,000 were approved by the Superintendent or his designee in accordance with Board Policy 9030 – Facility Construction. Change orders greater than \$100,000 must be approved by the Board.

Fiscal Implications:

All change orders were prefunded prior to recommendation for approval.

Recommendation:

The Operations Committee has reviewed the attached listing of construction/repair change orders and recommended approval of these items.

Policy Implications:

Policy Code: 9030 Facility Construction

Strategic Goal Alignment:

Other: Policy or Gen Statute. See above.

Submitted by: Gary F. Hoskins, CFO and
Associate Superintendent
for Finance and Operations

Department: Operations

GCS CHANGE ORDER NOTIFICATION

In accordance with GCS Board Policy 9030 - Facility Construction, all construction and repair change orders approved by the Superintendent shall be reported to the Board. The project change requests (PCR) and change orders (CO) listed below were approved by the Superintendent, or his designee, since the previous Board meeting.

Presented to BOE	Contractor's Name	Project name	Description of Change	Contract Amount	Change Order Amount
04-19-21	Peterson Painting	Ashbrook HS Renovation	CO #1 - Paint all interior and exterior AC Units	\$195,084	\$9,800
04-19-21	Beam Construction Company	Belmont Middle School - New Construction	PCR#35 - Revisions to fire alarms per Fire Marshall (covered in allowances)	\$33,540,000	\$6,067
04-19-21	Beam Construction Company	Belmont Middle School - New Construction	PCR#40 - Provide roof expansion joint over fire wall (covered in allowances)	\$33,540,000	\$46,620
04-19-21	Beam Construction Company	Belmont Middle School - New Construction	PCR#45R - Add seven water bottle filling stations (covered in allowances)	\$33,540,000	\$6,433
04-19-21	Beam Construction Company	Belmont Middle School - New Construction	PCR#47 - Revisions to landscaping in accordance with City of Belmont request (covered in allowances)	\$33,540,000	\$1,807
04-19-21	Beam Construction Company	Belmont Middle School - New Construction	PCR#70 - Change entry canopy light fixtures from linear fixtures to column mounted sconces (covered in allowances)	\$33,540,000	\$10,959
04-19-21	Beam Construction Company	Belmont Middle School - New Construction	PCR#71 - Add ceiling in Room 126 to terminate HVAC diffusers, sprinkler and smoke detector (covered in allowances)	\$33,540,000	\$1,813
04-19-21	Beam Construction Company	Belmont Middle School - New Construction	PCR#72 - Raise lighting in lobby (covered in allowances)	\$33,540,000	\$1,195
04-19-21	Beam Construction Company	Belmont Middle School - New Construction	PCR#73 - Relocate automatic door opener to opposite door (covered in allowances)	\$33,540,000	\$2,222
04-19-21	Beam Construction Company	Belmont Middle School - New Construction	PCR#74 - Add gate valve at storm pond structure to control water level (covered in allowances)	\$33,540,000	\$3,557
04-19-21	Beam Construction Company	Belmont Middle School - New Construction	PCR#75 - Ice maker in area C for athletic use (covered in allowances)	\$33,540,000	\$7,263
04-19-21	Beam Construction Company	Belmont Middle School - New Construction	PCR#76 - Provide electric latch retraction exit devices at doors with moveable mullions (covered in allowances)	\$33,540,000	\$32,319
04-19-21	Beam Construction Company	Belmont Middle School - New Construction	PCR#77 - Add accent paint stripe in reception office (covered in allowances)	\$33,540,000	\$688

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 4/19/2021

Agenda Item Title/Topic: Anti-Microbial Air Cleaners

Type of Item: Consent Action Information

Main Points:

In order to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and other viruses, the CDC recommends that indoor spaces have fresh, clean air. The American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) recommends using air purifiers with the HEPA filter to improve the air quality in our schools. Therefore, on November 16, 2020, the Board of Education approved the purchase of 850 air purifiers and replacement HEPA filters at a cost of \$549,611. We later determined that additional air purifiers were needed for classrooms in our schools, so we purchased an additional 150 air purifiers and HEPA replacement filters for \$96,990 and then an additional 1,350 air purifiers and HEPA replacement filters at a cost of \$872,900. The total amount of all purchases is \$1,519,501. This covered all classrooms with the exception of the four newest schools. An additional 150 units are needed to cover all classrooms in the District.

Fiscal Implications:

The 150 additional air purifiers and HEPA replacement filters cost \$96,990. This will be funded from Federal COVID-19 funding through ESSER I. The total amount used to purchase air purifiers would be \$1,616,491.

Recommendation:

Board approval to purchase an additional 150 air purifiers and HEPA replacement filters.

Policy Implications:

Policy Code: 9200 Care and Maintenance of Facilities

Strategic Goal Alignment:

Goal 5. Every student has the opportunity to learn in a safe school environment.

Submitted by: Morgen Houchard, Executive Director of Auxiliary Services **Department:** Auxiliary Services

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 4/19/2021

Agenda Item Title/Topic: Purchase of Digital Two-Way Radios

Type of Item: Consent Action Information

Main Points:

We have 11 high schools, 7 middle schools, and 11 elementary schools that have digital radios. Our remaining 24 schools have analog radios that have exceeded their service life and are failing rapidly. Additionally, the “reach” of these old analog radios is marginal and reception often includes static which increases the level of risk in these schools. We would like to upgrade the remaining 5 middle schools and 19 elementary schools with new digital radios. These new radios have a 3 – 5 mile transmission range and are crystal clear. Additionally, the new radios are encrypted while the old analog radios are not. Our old analog radios are not compatible with the digital radios. By having all digital radios, communication between all schools within range is possible. This is important when neighboring schools use each other as emergency off-site locations. Finally, the new radios are covered under a 1-year maintenance package.

Fiscal Implications:

We plan to use \$137,709 in local funds to upgrade all remaining schools to digital (544 radios for schools and 6 radios for emergency vehicle).

Recommendation:

Approve the purchase of 550 digital radios that are needed to upgrade the two-way radios at the remaining 24 schools in the district.

Policy Implications:

N/A

Strategic Goal Alignment:

Goal 5. Every student has the opportunity to learn in a safe school environment.

Submitted by: Michael Nance
Director of Safety and Security

Department: Safety and Security

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 4/19/2021

Agenda Item Title/Topic: HVAC System Cleaning

Type of Item: Consent Action Information

Main Points:

In order to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and other viruses, the CDC recommends that indoor spaces have fresh, clean air. The American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) recommends improving indoor air quality by cleaning the entire HVAC mechanical system and related ductwork. There are 15 schools identified as being in Phase I of this project. The schools that will have their HVAC system/ductwork cleaned in Phase I are: East Gaston HS, Ashbrook HS, South Point HS, Forestview HS, Cherryville HS, Holbrook MS, John Chavis MS, Bessemer City MS, WC Friday MS, Cramerton MS, Webb Street, Sherwood ES, Lowell ES, Belmont Central ES and WA Bess ES.

Fiscal Implications:

Four bids were received with COIT Cleaning and Restoration Services being the lowest at \$439,220. A 10% discount (\$43,922) was offered, if all schools were to be cleaned by COIT Cleaning and Restoration Services. COIT Cleaning and Restoration Services was the lowest bid on every school therefore, the total of the contract will be \$395,298 (\$439,220 – \$43,922). This will be paid from Federal COVID-19 funding through ESSER I.

Recommendation:

Board approval to clean the HVAC mechanical systems and ductwork of the 15 listed schools.

Policy Implications:

N/A

Strategic Goal Alignment:

Goal 5. Every student has the opportunity to learn in a safe school environment.

Submitted by: Morgen Houchard, Executive Director of Auxiliary Services **Department:** Auxiliary Services

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 4/19/2021

Agenda Item Title/Topic: Purchase of Riding Floor Scrubbers

Type of Item: Consent Action Information

Main Points:

Due to COVID-19, the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) recommends improving indoor air quality to help slow the transmission of viruses. Riding scrubbers would decrease the time needed to clean hallways and other large areas. This would provide custodial staff more time to clean and sanitize rooms and other high traffic areas.

Fiscal Implications:

Four (4) bids were received, with Kelsan submitting the lowest at \$5,776 per floor scrubber. Therefore, the total cost for this contract will be \$375,440 (65 at \$5,776 each).

Recommendation:

Board approval to purchase of riding scrubbers.

Policy Implications:

N/A

Strategic Goal Alignment:

Goal 5. Every student has the opportunity to learn in a safe school environment.

Submitted by: Morgen Houchard, Executive
Director of Auxiliary Services

Department: Auxiliary Services

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 4/19/2021

Agenda Item Title/Topic: Contracts and Expenditures >\$100,000

Type of Item: Consent Action Information

Main Points:

The attached listing of contracts and expenditures over \$100,000 was reviewed by Staff and recommended for approval by the Board, or are contracts less than \$100,000 but commended to the Board for approval.

Fiscal Implications:

All contracts and expenditures will be paid using bond funding, capital proceeds or operational savings.

Recommendation:

Approval

Policy Implications:

Board Policy 8640

Strategic Goal Alignment:

Other: Policy or Gen Statute. See above.

Submitted by: Gary F. Hoskins, CFO and
Associate Superintendent
for Finance and Operations

Department: Finance and Operations

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 4/19/2021

Agenda Item Title/Topic: Microsoft Software Agreement

Type of Item: Consent Action Information

Main Points:

Microsoft EES (Enrollment for Education Solutions) is the Microsoft Volume Licensing Agreement for academic institutions with 1,000 or more users. This agreement provides the following items:

1. Windows 10 operating system
2. Microsoft Office Suite
3. Active Directory (The software used to manage our Windows network)
4. Windows Server operating system.

Fiscal Implications:

We have budgeted the cost of \$205,346 in the current TSS operational budget.

Recommendation:

Approve the purchase of the Microsoft EES.

Policy Implications:

None

Strategic Goal Alignment:

Goal 3: Every employee uses innovative practices to serve all students, parents, and other stakeholders.

Submitted by: Aaron W. Slutsky, Chief Technology Officer

Department: TSS

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 4/19/2021

Agenda Item Title/Topic: Actively Learn/Achieve Math (6-12)

Type of Item: Consent Action Information

Main Points:

Actively Learn/Achieve Math provides comprehensive, rigorous content support for grades 6-12 social studies and 9-12 reading and science. Actively Learn recently acquired the company Achieve 3000 Math that provides support and practice for math in grades 9-12. Teachers have access to a diverse catalog of high-interest articles, authentic fiction, textbook sections, videos, science simulations, and more. They are also able to organize the information to fit our local scope and sequence of pacing. Actively Learn ensures equitable access to novels across the district with a library of over 16,000 contemporary novels, plays and anthologies. The current contract expires on December 31, 2021. We wish to extend this contract until June 30, 2022 in an effort to cover the entire 2021-22 school year.

Fiscal Implications:

Contract extension

December 2021 through June 2022: \$171,965.

Recommendation:

Continue supporting Actively Learn/Achieve 3000 for the second half of the 2021 - 2022 school year.

Policy Implications:

N/A

Strategic Goal Alignment:

Goal 2. Every member of our diverse population has the opportunity for individualized instruction.

Submitted by: Cristi Bostic
Executive Director of Secondary Instruction

Department: Academic Services

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 4/19/2021

Agenda Item Title/Topic: Assessing Math Concepts (K-2)

Type of Item: Consent Action Information

Main Points:

Assessing Math Concepts is a K-2 Formative Web-Based Assessment Tool used to create additional personalized instruction in mathematics. AMC is aligned to the North Carolina Math Standard Course of Study. Students and teachers have access to nine assessments and resources that provide age appropriate instruction for each child.

Fiscal Implications:

Fiscal Year 2021 - 2022: \$218,217.24.

Recommendation:

Approve instructional resources for the 2021 - 2022 school year.

Policy Implications:

N/A

Strategic Goal Alignment:

Goal 2. Every member of our diverse population has the opportunity for individualized instruction.

Submitted by: Derrick Jackson
Executive Director of Elementary Instruction

Department: Academic Services

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 4/19/2021

Agenda Item Title/Topic: Bayada

Type of Item: Consent Action Information

Main Points:

Bayada provides nursing services. Those services include assisting students with learning to advocate and provide self-care as much as possible, providing and maintaining required documentation of services rendered to Gaston County Schools as well as student's individual medical providers, providing individualized physician ordered direct medical supervision and care to assigned medically fragile students during school day (may include transportation, extra-curricular events, field trips) and providing education and training regarding students' medical conditions and precautions, to students, parents, teachers, school nurse, as well as other staff to enable students to fully access their education.

Fiscal Implications:

Fiscal Year 2020 - 2021: \$200,000.

Recommendation:

Support the contract for the 2021- 2022 school year.

Policy Implications:

N/A

Strategic Goal Alignment:

Goal 2. Every member of our diverse population has the opportunity for individualized instruction.

Submitted by: Carrie Minnich

Executive Director of Department for Exceptional Children

Department: Academic Services

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 4/19/2021

Agenda Item Title/Topic: BrightStar Care

Type of Item: Consent Action Information

Main Points:

BrightStar Care provides nursing services. Those services include assisting students with learning to advocate and provide self-care as much as possible, providing and maintaining required documentation of services rendered to Gaston County Schools as well as student's individual medical providers, providing individualized physician ordered direct medical supervision and care to assigned medically fragile students during school day (may include transportation, extra-curricular events, field trips) and providing education and training regarding students' medical conditions and precautions, to students, parents, teachers, school nurse, as well as other staff to enable students to fully access their education.

Fiscal Implications:

Fiscal Year 2020 -2021: \$400,000.

Recommendation:

Support the contract for the 2021-2022 school year.

Policy Implications:

N/A

Strategic Goal Alignment:

Goal 2. Every member of our diverse population has the opportunity for individualized instruction.

Submitted by: Carrie Minnich

Department: Academic Services

Executive Director of Department for Exceptional Children

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 4/19/2021

Agenda Item Title/Topic: Community Residential Funds

Type of Item: Consent Action Information

Main Points:

Community Residential Funds are provided by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction. These funds 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.

Fiscal Implications:

Fiscal Year 2020 -2021: \$325,000.

Recommendation:

Support the contract for the 2021-2022 school year.

Policy Implications:

N/A

Strategic Goal Alignment:

Goal 2. Every member of our diverse population has the opportunity for individualized instruction.

Submitted by: Carrie Minnich **Department:** Academic Services
Executive Director of Department for Exceptional Children

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 4/19/2021

Agenda Item Title/Topic: Continuum

Type of Item: Consent Action Information

Main Points:

Continuum provides nursing services. Those services include assisting students with learning to advocate and provide self-care as much as possible, providing and maintaining required documentation of services rendered to Gaston County Schools as well as student's individual medical providers, providing individualized physician ordered direct medical supervision and care to assigned medically fragile students during school day (may include transportation, extra-curricular events, field trips) and providing education and training regarding students' medical conditions and precautions, to students, parents, teachers, school nurse, as well as other staff to enable students to fully access their education.

Fiscal Implications:

Fiscal Year 2020 -2021: \$100,000.

Recommendation:

Support the contract for the 2021-2022 school year.

Policy Implications:

N/A

Strategic Goal Alignment:

Goal 2. Every member of our diverse population has the opportunity for individualized instruction.

Submitted by: Carrie Minnich **Department:** Academic Services
Executive Director of Department for Exceptional Children

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 4/19/2021

Agenda Item Title/Topic: Developmental Day Funds

Type of Item: Consent Action Information

Main Points:

Developmental Day Funds are made available by the State Board of Education. The funds provide services to children with disabilities who are placed in licensed developmental day centers. Gaston County Schools uses these funds to provide services to students at Webb Street School.

Fiscal Implications:

Fiscal Year 2020 - 2021: \$325,000.

Recommendation:

Support the contract for the 2021- 2022 school year.

Policy Implications:

N/A

Strategic Goal Alignment:

Goal 2. Every member of our diverse population has the opportunity for individualized instruction.

Submitted by: Carrie Minnich **Department:** Academic Services
Executive Director of Department for Exceptional Children

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 4/19/2021

Agenda Item Title/Topic: Discovery Education (K-8)

Type of Item: Consent Action Information

Main Points:

Discovery Education supports the NC Science Essential standards and provides real-world engaging content. The Science Techbook provides virtual activities and hands-on labs. In an effort to ensure teachers are able to effectively utilize this resource to support science instruction, additional professional development will be offered. The current contract will need to be amended to add the additional cost for the professional development.

Fiscal Implications:

Amendment cost for Professional Development: \$12,000.

Recommendation:

Support amending the current Discovery Education contract to add additional professional development.

Policy Implications:

N/A

Strategic Goal Alignment:

Goal 2. Every member of our diverse population has the opportunity for individualized instruction.

Submitted by: Cristi Bostic
Executive Director of Secondary Instruction

Department: Academic Services

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 4/19/2021

Agenda Item Title/Topic: The Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services

Type of Item: Consent Action Information

Main Points:

The Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services helps students aged fourteen - adulthood with disabilities achieve their goals for employment and independence. They provide services in schools that include: participating in IEP meetings to develop transition plans, providing Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) to students with disabilities (with IEPs and 504 plans), completing educational, psychological, and vocational evaluations, connecting students to job coaching agencies for job placement, connecting students to agencies for supported employment, collaborating with Gaston County Schools Department for Exceptional Children to hold community resource and vocational training events, and providing financial support for eligible clients for work-based needs.

Fiscal Implications:

Fiscal Year 2020 - 2021: \$55,000.

Recommendation:

Support the contract for the 2021-2022 school year.

Policy Implications:

N/A

Strategic Goal Alignment:

Goal 2. Every member of our diverse population has the opportunity for individualized instruction.

Submitted by: Carrie Minnich **Department:** Academic Services
Executive Director of Department for Exceptional Children

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 4/19/2021

Agenda Item Title/Topic: Edgenuity

Type of Item: Consent Action Information

Main Points:

Edgenuity is an online platform used for High School Credit Recovery, and courseware for the Gaston Virtual Academy. This contract was extended for two additional years 2021-2023.

Fiscal Implications:

Contract extension
Cost per year: \$152,550 — 2021-2022
 \$152,550 — 2022-2023
Total \$305,100

Recommendation:

Continue supporting the Edgenuity contract for the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 school years.

Policy Implications:

N/A

Strategic Goal Alignment:

Goal 2. Every member of our diverse population has the opportunity for individualized instruction.

Submitted by: Cristi Bostic
Executive Director of Secondary Instruction

Department: Academic Services

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 4/19/2021

Agenda Item Title/Topic: Edpuzzle (K-12)

Type of Item: Consent Action Information

Main Points:

Edpuzzle is used by teachers, K-12, to easily create interactive video lessons for students. Teachers can upload their own videos to the platform or adjust existing videos to fit their needs. They can also create and embed questions for student response as they watch the video lessons. Edpuzzle integrates seamlessly into the Schoology and Canvas learning management systems. The current Edpuzzle contract expires on January 11, 2022. We would like to extend the contract until June 30, 2022.

Fiscal Implications:

Contract Extension

January 2022 through June 2022: \$16,200.

Recommendation:

Continue supporting the Edpuzzle contract for the remainder of the 2021-2022 school year.

Policy Implications:

N/A

Strategic Goal Alignment:

Goal 2. Every member of our diverse population has the opportunity for individualized instruction.

Submitted by: Cristi Bostic
Executive Director of Secondary Instruction

Department: Academic Services

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 4/19/2021

Agenda Item Title/Topic: Educator's Handbook (K-12)

Type of Item: Consent Action Information

Main Points:

Educator's Handbook is a digital platform to record minor incidents and office referrals for behavior. The platform allows staff members to review readily available information about student behavior trends and patterns that can be viewed by school and district staff. Provides faster identification of students in need of individualized services.

Fiscal Implications:

Fiscal Year 2021 - 2022: \$38,390.

Recommendation:

Approve instructional resource for the 2021 - 2022 school year.

Policy Implications:

N/A

Strategic Goal Alignment:

Goal 2. Every member of our diverse population has the opportunity for individualized instruction.

Submitted by: Derrick Jackson **Department:** Academic Services
Executive Director of Elementary Instruction

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 4/19/2021

Agenda Item Title/Topic: Fluent

Type of Item: Consent Action Information

Main Points:

Fluent, the onsite services division acquired by Language Line, is designed to support facilities that have an ongoing need for dependable face-to-face interpretation in American Sign Language (ASL) and spoken languages. Interpreters are available even in short-notice situations to serve students directly in schools or facilitate interpretation at IEP meetings to ensure full parental participation.

Fiscal Implications:

Fiscal Year 2020 -2021: \$25,000.

Recommendation:

Support the contract for the 2021-2022 school year.

Policy Implications:

N/A

Strategic Goal Alignment:

Goal 2. Every member of our diverse population has the opportunity for individualized instruction.

Submitted by: Carrie Minnich

Department: Academic Services
Executive Director of Department for Exceptional Children

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 4/19/2021

Agenda Item Title/Topic: Get Better Faster (K-12)

Type of Item: Consent Action Information

Main Points:

Get Better Faster training will allow school leaders and instructional facilitators to form habits that incorporate the See It, Name It, Do It, framework and lead effective coaching sessions. Effective coaching will build teacher capacity to consistently and successfully improve student outcomes. Participants will learn through authentic practice, time for planning, video exemplars, and work with peers. Various turn-key tools will be revisited and applied in order to enhance current execution in schools. This contract will provide multiple days of coaching, training and support for K-12 principals, assistant principals and instructional facilitators.

Fiscal Implications:

Cost: \$67,050

Recommendation:

Support the Get Better Fast contract for the 2021-2022 school year.

Policy Implications:

N/A

Strategic Goal Alignment:

Goal 2. Every member of our diverse population has the opportunity for individualized instruction.

Submitted by: Cristi Bostic
Executive Director of Secondary Instruction

Department: Academic Services

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 4/19/2021

Agenda Item Title/Topic: Curriculum Associates (K-8)

Type of Item: Consent Action Information

Main Points:

i-Ready and Ready Math are provided by Curriculum Associates. Curriculum Associates provides three diagnostics tests annually, books, professional development, and an online component, as well as additional resources allowing teachers to scaffold learning. Curriculum Associates will continue providing resources for inquiry-based mathematics instruction for kindergarten through eighth grade. The rich data from i-Ready Assessment empowers teachers with a deeper knowledge of their students' needs and unfinished learning. It pinpoints students' strengths and knowledge gaps at the sub-skill level. i-Ready's growth measures provide a detailed portrait of student growth and chart a path to grade-level proficiency for every student. Our comprehensive core mathematics program, i-Ready Classroom Mathematics, makes mathematics accessible to all students and is highly rated by EdReports. EdReports is an independent nonprofit designed to improve educational outcomes by providing reviews of K-12 instructional materials. Through a blend of purposeful print and digital components, the program increases student engagement and builds confidence.

Ready and i-Ready will be used by 740 teachers and 20,190 students as their core print and digital resource which includes printed teacher and student manuals at a per-pupil cost of \$84.92. Middle Schools have used the iReady digital platform for diagnostic assessment and practice for both reading and math. The Ready math book has been used to support math instruction since 2016. From 2016 - 2019, EOG math scores have increased by 21.6 % in 6th grade, 19.7% in 7th grade, and 20.8% in 8th grade.

Fiscal Implications:

Fiscal Year 2021 - 2022

Ready Math: \$ 936,477.78

i-Ready: \$ 777,998.27

Professional Development: \$ 250,000.00

TOTAL \$1,964,476.05

Recommendation:

Approve instructional resources for the 2021 - 2022 school year.

Policy Implications:

N/A

Strategic Goal Alignment:

Goal 2. Every member of our diverse population has the opportunity for individualized instruction.

Submitted by: Derrick Jackson **Department:** Academic Services
Executive Director of Elementary Instruction

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 4/19/2021

Agenda Item Title/Topic: IXL (K-12)

Type of Item: Consent Action Information

Main Points:

IXL is an online platform to support students with mathematics. It provides an individualized pathway for students based upon an initial assessment and allows teachers to assign work aligned to State academic standards. This platform will provide math and reading support for grades K-8 and math support for grades 9-12. This is a two year contract.

Fiscal Implications:

Two year contract
Year One: \$312,063.00
Year Two: \$191,375.00
TOTAL \$503,438.00

Recommendation:

Support the IXL contract for the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 school years.

Policy Implications:

N/A

Strategic Goal Alignment:

Goal 2. Every member of our diverse population has the opportunity for individualized instruction.

Submitted by: Cristi Bostic **Department:** Academic Services
Executive Director of Secondary Instruction

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 4/19/2021

Agenda Item Title/Topic: Leader In Me (K-12)

Type of Item: Consent Action Information

Main Points:

The Leader in Me framework is based on the educational practices of the Franklin Covey Educational Group and the principles of the Seven Habits of Highly Effective People. The Leader in Me program is the focus for the schools in the Dallas Community. The program explores various leadership paradigms by teaching highly effective practices to support the transformation of students as they prepare for college and life as citizens in our community and globally. In year three of the framework teachers and administrators undergo continuous improvement through professional development. Educators from Leader in Me schools will participate in training and discussion on new advancements to improve the model and processes to ensure effective transformation results for students.

Fiscal Implications:

Fiscal Year 2021 - 2022: \$118,034.38.

Recommendation:

Approve instructional resource for the 2021 - 2022 school year.

Policy Implications:

N/A

Strategic Goal Alignment:

Goal 2. Every member of our diverse population has the opportunity for individualized instruction.

Submitted by: Derrick Jackson
Executive Director of Elementary Instruction

Department: Academic Services

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 4/19/2021

Agenda Item Title/Topic: Learning A-Z (K-5)

Type of Item: Consent Action Information

Main Points:

Learning A-Z provides meaningful online reading practice on computers and mobile devices. There are hundreds of leveled books and corresponding quizzes available at 29 levels of reading difficulty. Learning A-Z also encourages close reading skills and the reading and writing connection with interactive tools and constructed response quiz questions.

Fiscal Implications:

Fiscal Year 2021 - 2022: \$299,170.

Recommendation:

Approve instructional resources for the 2021 - 2022 school year.

Policy Implications:

N/A

Strategic Goal Alignment:

Goal 2. Every member of our diverse population has the opportunity for individualized instruction.

Submitted by: Derrick Jackson
Executive Director of Elementary Instruction

Department: Academic Services

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 4/19/2021

Agenda Item Title/Topic: Modern Teacher (K-12)

Type of Item: Consent Action Information

Main Points:

Modern Teacher is a digital platform framework that partners with school districts to modernized learning in the district's transition from traditional classrooms to digital convergence. Gaston County Schools will continue making this district wide transition to modern learning environments in order to create a modern school district in the Conceptual Age of the 21st century which requires higher-order thinking, creative problem solving and synthesizing of knowledge to create new ideas.

Fiscal Implications:

Fiscal Year 2021 - 2022: \$150,000.

Recommendation:

Approve instructional resource for the 2021 - 2022 school year.

Policy Implications:

N/A

Strategic Goal Alignment:

Goal 2. Every member of our diverse population has the opportunity for individualized instruction.

Submitted by: Derrick Jackson
Executive Director of Elementary Instruction

Department: Academic Services

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 4/19/2021

Agenda Item Title/Topic: Public Consulting Group

Type of Item: Consent Action Information

Main Points:

Public Consulting Group provides a multi-faceted platform that allows teachers to perform case management and progress monitoring. The Easy IEP/504 piece of the platform includes advanced reporting and several customizations for Gaston County Schools. Having this program allows teachers to efficiently manage students' IEPs and 504 plans by allowing them to maintain accommodations, develop goals, track progress and meet other state documentation expectations. The platform allows great ease in generating needed reports for the state and sharing with parents. With MTSS Explorer teachers can create, store and manage accurate plans for students from any internet access point. The program includes an Early Warning System that pulls in test scores, attendance and grades to determine the level of student need. This allows teachers to identify students that are most in need of support and to create a plan for student success. The platform also includes a special funds management portion that allows GCS to receive funding from the state for services DEC specialists provide. Medicaid Reimbursement, Fee for Service and Cost Reporting are funds that are available for related services such as speech and occupational therapy. Risk Pool Funds and Special State Reserves are monies that are received through special application for some of our most needy students.

Fiscal Implications:

Fiscal Year 2020 -2021: \$500,000.

Recommendation:

Support the contract for the 2021-2022 school year.

Policy Implications:

N/A

Strategic Goal Alignment:

Goal 2. Every member of our diverse population has the opportunity for individualized instruction.

Submitted by: Carrie Minnich **Department:** Academic Services
Executive Director of Department for Exceptional Children

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 4/19/2021

Agenda Item Title/Topic: SchoolNet (K-12)

Type of Item: Consent Action Information

Main Points:

SchoolNet is a K-12 instructional platform provided by Pearson that allows educators to build lesson plans, create instructional materials, and supplement their teaching with digital resources. This tool gives teachers the ability to create and modify assessments as well as receive results in real-time with relevant data for reporting purposes. It can also support district-wide curriculum management with tools for creating and scheduling curriculum and district-wide pacing guides.

Fiscal Implications:

Fiscal Year 2021 - 2022: \$35,455.33.

Recommendation:

Approve instructional resource for the 2021 - 2022 school year.

Policy Implications:

N/A

Strategic Goal Alignment:

Goal 2. Every member of our diverse population has the opportunity for individualized instruction.

Submitted by: Derrick Jackson
Executive Director of Elementary Instruction

Department: Academic Services

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 4/19/2021

Agenda Item Title/Topic: Schoology (K-5)

Type of Item: Consent Action Information

Main Points:

Schoology is a K-5 learning management system (LMS) providing the tools needed to create engaging content, design lessons, and assess student understanding. *Schoology* helps teachers manage collaborative groups, differentiate instruction, and develop blended instruction. *Schoology* makes it easier to identify students' needs and the learning paths that are right for them.

Fiscal Implications:

Fiscal Year 2021 - 2022: \$50,000.

Recommendation:

Approve instructional resources for the 2021 - 2022 school year.

Policy Implications:

N/A

Strategic Goal Alignment:

Goal 2. Every member of our diverse population has the opportunity for individualized instruction.

Submitted by: Derrick Jackson
Executive Director of Elementary Instruction

Department: Academic Services

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 4/19/2021

Agenda Item Title/Topic: S.P.I.R.E. Reading Instruction

Type of Item: Consent Action Information

Main Points:

The S.P.I.R.E. curriculum is a research-proven multisensory reading intervention program that will be used to support our K-5 students with targeted reading instruction. It is designed to build reading success through an intensive, structured, and spiraling curriculum that incorporates phonological awareness, phonics, spelling, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension in a systematic 10-Step lesson plan. The S.P.I.R.E. curriculum is a unique combination of print and digital resources – students work with print and manipulatives, while the teacher-led instruction is delivered digitally, including assessment and reporting.

Fiscal Implications:

Fiscal Year 2021 - 2022: \$109,161.

Recommendation:

Approve instructional resource for the 2021 - 2022 school year.

Policy Implications:

N/A

Strategic Goal Alignment:

Goal 2. Every member of our diverse population has the opportunity for individualized instruction.

Submitted by: Derrick Jackson **Department:** Academic Services
Executive Director of Elementary Instruction

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 4/19/2021

Agenda Item Title/Topic: Support Inc.

Type of Item: Consent Action Information

Main Points:

Support Inc. provides individualized adult support services for students. This support may include help with health or behavioral concerns. These positions usually work with one student at a time under the direction and guidance of the classroom teacher.

Fiscal Implications:

Fiscal Year 2020 -2021: \$1,000,000.

Recommendation:

Support the contract for the 2021-2022 school year.

Policy Implications:

N/A

Strategic Goal Alignment:

Goal 2. Every member of our diverse population has the opportunity for individualized instruction.

Submitted by: Carrie Minnich **Department:** Academic Services
Executive Director of Department for Exceptional Children

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 4/19/2021

Agenda Item Title/Topic: Thrive

Type of Item: Consent Action Information

Main Points:

Thrive provides nursing services. Those services include assisting students with learning to advocate and provide self-care as much as possible, providing and maintaining required documentation of services rendered to Gaston County Schools as well as student's individual medical providers, providing individualized physician ordered direct medical supervision and care to assigned medically fragile students during school day (may include transportation, extra-curricular events, field trips) and providing education and training regarding students' medical conditions and precautions, to students, parents, teachers, school nurse, as well as other staff to enable students to fully access their education.

Fiscal Implications:

Fiscal Year 2020 - 2021: \$280,000.

Recommendation:

Support the contract for the 2021-2022 school year.

Policy Implications:

N/A

Strategic Goal Alignment:

Goal 2. Every member of our diverse population has the opportunity for individualized instruction.

Submitted by: Carrie Minnich

Department: Academic Services

Executive Director of Department for Exceptional Children

Last Name	First Name	Category	School
Adams	Nancy	Retirement	Chapel Grove Elementary School - 352
Allen	Sonja	New Hire	Hunter Huss High School - 428
Ammay	Wanda	Retirement	Woodhill Elementary School - 520
Anderson	Breanna	New Hire	School Nutrition - 007
Anderson	Sharon	Resignation	Technology Support Services - 014
Anthony	Rachel	New Hire	W.A. Bess Elementary School - 510
Aschmann	Kate	New Hire	Belmont Central Elementary School - 320
Barnhart	Kelly	Promotion	North Belmont Elementary School - 468
Baunach	Margaret	Retirement	Springfield Elementary School - 499
Baxter	Diana	Promotion	Stanley Middle School - 500
Beane	Amanda	Resignation	Hershal H. Beam Elementary School - 492
Beardsley	Rachel	New Hire	Hawks Nest STEAM Academy - 420
Beavers	Frances	Resignation	York Chester Middle School - 526
Berrier	Caren	Resignation	School Nutrition - 007
Bolynn	Kimberly	Promotion	Human Resource Services - 006
Bowles	Charles	Promotion	Cramerton Middle School - 380
Brooks	Jada	Promotion	Woodhill Elementary School - 520
Brown	Barbara	New Hire	Bessemer City Middle School - 436
Butler	Geneva	Transfers	Pleasant Ridge Elementary School - 480
Chryst	Karen	Retirement	Edward D. Sadler Jr. Elem. School - 392
Clark-Peddycord	Helen	Retirement	Woodhill Elementary School - 520
Crabtree	Sharon	Retirement	East Gaston High School - 390
Crawford	Diana	New Hire	School Nutrition - 007
Cureton	Doretta	Demotion	Pleasant Ridge Elementary School - 480
Davis-Floyd	Sylvia	Transfers	Pleasant Ridge Elementary School - 480
Denton	Michael	Promotion	Facilities - 004
DiVirgilio	Diana	New Hire	Woodhill Elementary School - 520
Duncan	Chad	Promotion	Academic Services - 021
Fish	June	Resignation	Department for Exceptional Children - 004
Franklin	Florence	Demotion	School Nutrition - 007
Fry	Heather	Resignation	Forestview High School - 396
Garrett	Sherry	New Hire	School Nutrition - 007
Garris	Ericka	New Hire	Ashbrook High School - 310
Grier	Bernadette	Transfers	Southwest Middle School - 498
Guzauskas	Rose	New Hire	W.A. Bess Elementary School - 510
Hardin	Corine	New Hire	Lingerfeldt Elementary School - 438
Harris	Jacquelyn	New Hire	North Gaston High School - 470
Harris	Wiley	Transfers	Costner Elementary School - 376
Hemingway	La-Tisha	Resignation	Woodhill Elementary School - 520
Higgins	Mary	New Hire	North Belmont Elementary School - 468
Jackson	Christine	New Hire	School Nutrition - 007
Johnston	James	New Hire	Woodhill Elementary School - 520
Kaylor	Charles	New Hire	Forestview High School - 396
Kirkpatrick	Jarrica	Resignation	Woodhill Elementary School - 520
Litfin	Amber	Promotion	Technology Support Services - 014
Long	Shannon	Retirement	Belmont Middle School - 324

Last Name	First Name	Category	School
Lowery	Sandra	New Hire	School Nutrition - 007
Lunsford	Connie	New Hire	School Nutrition - 007
Magee	Jeannette	Retirement	South Point High School - 494
Martin	Stephanie	New Hire	Stanley Middle School - 500
Mathis	Laura	Resignation	Brookside Elementary School - 340
Mauney	Teresa	Retirement	Carr Elementary School - 344
McBee	Mary	Retirement	South Point High School - 494
McBride	Gina	Retirement	North Belmont Elementary School - 468
McCollough	Fenesia	New Hire	Pleasant Ridge Elementary School - 480
McCoy	Alfreda	Resignation	South Point High School - 494
McElveen	Summer	Transfers	W.C. Friday Middle School - 514
McNabb	Alissa	New Hire	Tryon Elementary School - 504
Parker	Ami	Retirement	Belmont Middle School - 324
Parker	Amy	Retirement	Middle School Instruction - 017
Pence	Martha Jane	Retirement	Robinson Elementary School - 488
Price	Denise	Transfers	Bessemer City Central School - 332
Reed	Timothy	Transfers	W.A. Bess Elementary School - 510
Samuels	Stacey-Ann	Transfers	Chapel Grove Elementary School - 352
Simmons	Tyisha	Resignation	Woodhill Elementary School - 520
Smith	Aden	Promotion	Forestview High School - 396
Smith	Wanda	Transfers	Tryon Elementary School - 504
Starnes	Martha	Promotion	Student Support Services - 012
Tate	Bailey	New Hire	Tryon Elementary School - 504
Tompkins	Katharine	Retirement	Sherwood Elementary School - 490
Townsend	Lynn	New Hire	Belmont Central Elementary School - 320
Tyner	Rhonda	Demotion	School Nutrition - 007
Varner	DaQuisha	Resignation	Woodhill Elementary School - 520
Walker	D'Anje'	Resignation	North Gaston High School - 470
Walls	Destiny	Promotion	Bessemer City Primary School - 338
Watkins	Julie	Resignation	Stuart W. Cramer High School - 378
Weaver	Angela	Promotion	Pleasant Ridge Elementary School - 480
Wells	Claire	Transfers	Gardner Park Elementary School - 400
Wilburn	Leslie	New Hire	Woodhill Elementary School - 520
Wilson	Kathy	Resignation	Warlick Academy - 372
Worthy	Betty	Promotion	Academic Services - 021
Wright	Jennifer	New Hire	School Nutrition - 007