GASTON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR SESSION



Shaping Our Future

943 Osceola Street, Gastonia, NC 28054 February 15, 2021 5:30 p.m.

Meeting Date: 2/15/2021
Agenda Item Title/Topic: Agenda Adoption
Type of Item: □ Consent ⊠ Action □ Information
Main Points: Consideration of Formal Agenda for Monday, February 15, 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, February 15, 2021 5:30 p.m. Agenda Regular Meeting

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XVII. 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-319 Solomon et al. vs. Gaston County Board of Education, et al., and
 19-CVS-3893 McKinney et al. vs. Goins and The Gaston County Board of
 Education, and
 Any other legal matters.

XVIII. Adjournment

Meeting Date: 2/15/2021	
Agenda Item Title/Topic: Good News	
Type of Item: ☐ Consent ☐ Action	☑ Information
Main Points: Each month, the Communications/Public Infabout our schools, students, employees, an	formation Department compiles "Good News id community partners. See attachment.
Fiscal Implications: None	
Recommendation: None	
Policy Implications: None	
Strategic Goal Alignment: Goal 1. Every student will graduate prepare	d for post-secondary opportunities.
Submitted by: Todd Hagans, Chief Comm	unications Officer
Department: Communications/Public Inform	nation (Superintendent's Office)

BOARD AGENDA INFORMATIONAL ITEM

DEPARTMENT: Communications/Public

Information Department

TOPIC: GOOD NEWS

FOR THE MONTH OF: January/February 2021

1. The following students were winners in the Gaston Regional Science and Engineering Fair: Abby Armstrong, Brianna Maga, Brittany Isaac, Carly Craig, Carter Robinson, James Gunter, Kaitlyn Anthony, Madelyn Ludwig, Martin Inman, Molly Self, Morgan Clark, and Patrick Nanney from Forestview High School; Luigi Bortolussi from Highland School of Technology; and Nikki Bortolussi from Mount Holly Middle School.

- 2. **Bessemer City High School** senior **T'Kia Moore** earned the Chancellor's Scholarship from Appalachian State University. This is a highly-competitive, full-tuition scholarship and only 10 students were chosen from a pool of 14,000 applicants.
- 3. Olivia Goodson, a student at Stuart W. Cramer High School, is one of 112 finalists for the prestigious N.C. State University Park Scholarship. She is the only Gaston County student continuing in the scholarship competition and vying to become one of the university's 40 Park Scholars.
- 4. Cherryville High School senior Ben Hayes was chosen as one of three "Campus Captain Award" winners for January 2021. The honor is presented by the N.C. High School Athletic Association in partnership with Lowe's Home Improvement to recognize student-athletes for their efforts to "Build Back Sports" during the COVID-19 pandemic. Ben was instrumental in starting the Kindness Club at the school and took steps to help his fellow athletes understand the importance of following COVID-19 health protocols to ensure that athletics at his school could happen in a safe environment. Scott Harrill, the school's athletic director, submitted the award nomination.
- 5. **Gaston County Board of Education** member **Dot Guthrie** received the 2021 Coretta Scott King-Virginia Hamilton Award for Lifetime Achievement. The national recognition is presented by the American Library Association, and it honors an individual for his/her outstanding contributions in areas such as literacy, education, and service to the community.
- 6. The **Gaston County Schools** Communications Department received 17 Blue Ribbon Awards from the N.C. School Public Relations Association. The department won 16 awards in the following categories: digital media engagement (2), electronic media (6), image/graphic design (2), excellence in writing (3), marketing (2), and publications (1). Additionally, the department won the "Best of the Best" award in the publications category for our "Gaston County Schools Storybook." The 17 awards for Gaston County is the fourth highest number of awards for a school district in the state.

- 7. For its "Positive Sign Thursday" feature on social media, **Tryon Elementary** highlighted members of the **Gaston County Board of Education** as a way to show appreciation and say "thank you" for their service to education and the community.
- 8. Yeva Hall-Williamson, school counselor at Stuart W. Cramer High School, was selected for the College Board Counselor Recognition program. The acknowledgement honors outstanding school counselors for their hard work and dedication toward helping students, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. It also recognizes counselors' efforts to prepare students for college and career success.
- 9. Students from Ashbrook, Cramerton, Stuart W. Cramer, East Gaston, and Forestview earned 13 awards in the Mid-Carolina Regional Scholastic Art and Writing Awards program. The students won two Gold Key, four Silver Key, and seven honorable mention awards.
- 10. **Highland School of Technology** junior **Lauren Tolbert** won the 1A individual cross country state championship. Her time of 19:15.05 set a new 1A state record.
- 11. The following schools placed in the Festival of Trees competition sponsored by the City of Belmont: **Belmont Middle**, first place; **Cramerton Middle** and **Pinewood Elementary** tied for second place; and **W.A. Bess Elementary**, third place.
- 12. With the help of the Rotary Club of Gastonia, Angel Tree, and Roxanne Rankin, H.H. Beam Elementary was able to make the Christmas holiday special for 39 students.
- 13. **Belmont Central Elementary** received \$2,000 from Duke Energy through the My Energy Kit Challenge.
- 14. **Belmont Central Elementary** student **Addison Jones** auditioned for the TV series "Go Iguanas!" She will portray Mindy Maplewood, a student who attends a school for spies.
- 15. **Belmont Central Elementary** student **Isla Rose Hightower** will participate in the Braille Challenge, a program that motivates students to practice and hone their Braille literacy skills.
- 16. **Bessemer City High School** sophomore **Janiya Adams** broke a 37-year Gaston County single-game record by scoring 50 points during a recent basketball game.
- 17. The Carr Elementary cafeteria staff earned a 100 percent health inspection score. It is the third consecutive score of 100 for the school.
- 18. Cherryville High School's Scott Harrill became Gaston County's all-time winningest basketball coach with his 380th victory.
- 19. **Cherryville High School** sophomore **Rileigh Kiser** was named the 1A Player of the Year for volleyball. She is the school's first student-athlete to earn all-state recognition in volleyball.

- 20. In lieu of the traditional "Polar Express" celebration, **Chapel Grove Elementary** held a "Winter Celebrations Around the World" drive-thru event with 345 students/family members participating in the program. Additionally, an anonymous donor contributed \$500 to the school to help a families during the Christmas season.
- 21. Cramerton Middle School eighth grader Noelle Martin won first place in the Veterans of Foreign Affairs (VFW) Patriot's Pen competition at the local and district levels. In addition, Southwest Middle School students Abigail Bruce, Caitlyn Killian, Ethan Dennis, and Megan Hogencamp received recognition certificates for their entries.
- 22. **Stuart W. Cramer High School** band director **Kameron Radford** was selected for membership in the American School Band Directors Association. The national organization is for band directors whose mission is to promote, enhance, and preserve quality school programs through leadership and fellowship.
- 23. **Stuart W. Cramer High School** senior **Nathan Linkous** signed a National Letter of Intent to play football at Western Carolina University.
- 24. Stuart W. Cramer High School cross country runners Zachary Willer and Nicholas Willer finished sixth and seventh in the 3A state championship meet.
- 25. **Forestview High School** is a finalist for this year's College Success Gold Award, which is presented to schools that have a multiyear track record of preparing students to succeed in college.
- 26. Forestview High School cross country runners Austin Brotemarkle and Oussama Ajala finished eighth and twelfth in the 3A state championship meet.
- 27. **Forestview High School** senior **Traviyon Barnett** signed a National Letter of Intent to play football at Fort Scott Community College in Kansas.
- 28. Gardner Park Elementary is participating in a Remote Learning Challenge that involves students earning points for the completion of at-home assignments. Based on the number of points earned, the students are presented with karate belts. Since the challenge started, the school has seen an increase in the number of iReady lessons and Schoology work completed.
- 29. **Hunter Huss High School** was awarded a grant for an artificial intelligence-powered robot to communicate with families about attendance during the spring semester. The chatbot will remind families of key deadlines and help address attendance-related issues. The school was one of 60 schools selected to participate in the program out of more than 7,400 applications.
- 30. **Hunter Huss High School** students created beautiful mandalas (geometric diagrams) in the school hallways.
- 31. For the third consecutive year, **Hunter Huss High School** junior **Allison Kimmel** was named the Big South 3A Conference Swimmer of the Year.

- 32. **Lingerfeldt Elementary** received cleaning supplies and personal care packages from the Zeta Phi Beta Sorority. The sorority also donated coats and shoes for students at the school.
- 33. Lowell Elementary students participated in the Kindness Challenge, which included daily efforts such as giving compliments to classmates, leaving appreciation notes for teachers, custodians, and cafeteria workers, etc. In addition, the school sponsored a canned food drive to support local families through the Salvation Army and collected 1,040 items.
- 34. Pleasant Ridge Elementary second grade teacher Rhoda Verhosek won the Veterans Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 9337 and the Post Auxiliary's Smart/Maher National Citizenship Education Teacher of the Year Award. She was also selected as the District 13 VFW Teacher of the Year and received \$100 and a certificate of recognition.
- 35. Pleasant Ridge Elementary principal Glenn Cook and assistant principals Dan Barber and Bridgette Best were accepted into the North Carolina Association of Principals and Assistant Principals' 2021 Distinguished Leadership in a Remote Learning Environment program.
- 36. Every **Sadler Elementary** student received a bag filled with presents such as hats, gloves, mugs and candy from Christ Worship Center. The church also provided lunch for the school staff. Additionally, the school received dozens of coats, masks, and socks from Pisgah ARP Church and First Baptist Church.
- 37. Sadler Elementary students are completing two i-Ready lessons a week in reading and math. With a focus on student engagement through the computer-based program, iReady participation has increased to 87 percent in reading and 89 percent in math.
- 38. Stanley Middle School collected more than 1,000 items for a local food pantry.
- 39. **South Point High School** senior **Asheton Queen** signed a National Letter of Intent to play softball at Gardner-Webb University, and senior **Jackson Risk** signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball at Belmont Abbey College.
- 40. **South Point High School** sophomore **Davis Adcock** won the 200-yard individual medley title at the 1A/2A swimming regionals. He also was a runner-up in the 100-yard individual medley backstroke.
- 41. **South Point High School** swimming coach **Mary Ellen Lewis** was selected as the Southwestern 2A Conference Coach of the Year.
- 42. **Anna Dunbar** and **Emily Revels** of **South Point High School** were chosen for the North Carolina Volleyball Coaches Association's 2A all-state volleyball team. In addition, Dunbar signed a National Letter of Intent to play beach volleyball at Jacksonville University.

Meeting Date: 2/15/2021		
Agenda Item Title/Topic: Public	Expression	
Type of Item: ☐ Consent	☐ Action	
		nade available to the public for review. out an agenda item or other topic may do
Fiscal Implications: None		
	ssion. Any o	minutes) at the beginning of the regular citizen not heard during this time may be
Policy Implications: None		
Strategic Goal Alignment: Goal 1. Every student will graduate	e prepared fo	r post-secondary opportunities.
Submitted by: Todd Hagans, Ch	ief Communi	cations Officer
Department: Communications/Pu	ıblic Informati	ion (Superintendent's Office)

Meeting Date: 2/15/2021		
Agenda Item Title/Topic: Ap	proval/Correc	tion of Minutes
Type of Item: ☐ Consent	⊠ Action	☐ Information
Main Points: Approval of Minutes of:		
January 15, 2021 (Regular Me January 15, 2021 (BOE Retre	•	
Efficient consideration of matte system.	ers pertinent to	the successful operation of the schoo
Fiscal Implications: None		
Recommendation: None		
Policy Implications: Validation of Board Proceeding	gs.	
Strategic Goal Alignment: Goal 1. Every student will grad	duate prepared	for post-secondary opportunities.
Submitted by: Dr. W. Jeffrey	Booker	Department: Superintendent

Gaston County Schools Board of Education Friday. January 15, 2021 Meeting 8:30 a.m.

MINUTES

The Gaston County Board of Education met in a regular session on Friday, January 15, 2021 in the Linda Rader Staff Development Center, 240 Eighth Avenue, Cramerton, NC. The Board of Education meeting was conducted in accordance with social distancing requirements related to the coronavirus pandemic. Those Board Members in attendance were: Chairman Jeff K. Ramsey, Vice Chairman Dot Cherry, Kevin Collier, Justin Davis (virtual), Lee Dedmon, Dot Guthrie (virtual), Steve Hall, Robbie Lovelace and Brent Moore (virtual).

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 8:30 a.m. and welcomed everyone.

Superintendent Booker wished Mrs. Dot Guthrie a "Happy Birthday".

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

Superintendent Booker reported that January is National School Board Recognition Month and because our retreat is held in January, we recognize our Board during our regular meeting in February. Due to COVID, we will be recognizing our Board using Channel 21 which will be different than the past.

Public Expression - Information

No one signed up for Public Expression.

Approval/Correction of Minutes

The Board considered Approval of Minutes - Action

Motion to adopt minutes of December 21, 2020 as presented was made by Ms. Dot Cherry; seconded by Mr. Steve Hall; motion carried unanimously. (9-0)

School Calendar Proposal 2021-2022 & 2022-2023 - Information School Calendar Proposal — Gaston Early College 2021-2022 - Information

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

(View PowerPoint)

Consent Agenda - Action

The Board considered the Consent Agenda:

- A. Recommended Personnel
- B. Budget Amendments & Budget Transfers
- C. Construction/Repair Change Orders
- D. Contracts
 - —Temporary DOT Construction Easement
 - —Anti-Microbial Air Cleaners

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

Superintendent's Comments

Superintendent Booker thanked Board Members for attending the Retreat.

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 Ms. Dot Cherry; motion carried unanimously. (9-0)

The Board went into Closed Session at 9:10 a.m.

The Board returned to Open Session at 9:39 a.m.

Adjournment

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

The Board Meeting adjourned at 9:39 a.m.

Approved:	
Jeff K. Ramsey, Chairman [Corporate Seal]	W. Jeffrey Booker, Secretary
Date Approved:	

Gaston County Schools Board of Education Retreat January 15, 2021

Immediately Following Board of Education Meeting

Minutes

The Gaston County Board of Education held its annual retreat on Friday, January 15, 2021 immediately following the Board of Education Meeting in the Linda Rader Staff Development Center, 240 Eighth Avenue, Cramerton, NC. The Board of Education meeting was conducted in accordance with social distancing requirements related to the coronavirus pandemic. Those Board Members in attendance were: Chairman Jeff K. Ramsey, Vice Chairman Dot Cherry, Kevin Collier, Justin Davis (virtual), Lee Dedmon (virtual afternoon session), Dot Guthrie (virtual), Steve Hall (virtual afternoon session), Robbie Lovelace and Brent Moore (virtual).

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.

Technology Support Services

Superintendent Booker recognized Dr. Aaron Slutsky who presented a PowerPoint on Technology Support Services. Discussion followed.

(View PowerPoint)

School Business Modernization

Superintendent Booker recognized Mr. Gary Hoskins who presented a PowerPoint on School Business Systems Modernization (SBSM). Discussion followed.

(View PowerPoint)

Budget

Superintendent Booker recognized Mr. Gary Hoskins who presented a PowerPoint on Finance Discussion. Discussion followed.

(View PowerPoint)

Bond Update

Superintendent Booker recognized Mr. Gary Hoskins who presented a PowerPoint on School Bond Update. Discussion followed.

(View PowerPoint)

Accountability

Superintendent Booker recognized Rebekka Powers who presented a PowerPoint on Accountability Update. Discussion followed.

(View PowerPoint)

Superintendent Booker recognized Dr. Melissa Balknight who presented a PowerPoint on Academic Services Looking Back. Discussion followed.				
(View PowerPoint)				
Dr. Balknight recognized Mrs. Denise McLean who presented a PowerPoint on School Choice Programs Available Seats. Discussion followed.				
(View PowerPoint)				
Superintendent Booker recognized Mr. Brett Buchanan who presented a PowerPoint on Career and Technical Education. Discussion followed.				
(View PowerPoint)				
Superintendent Booker recognized Dr. Melissa Balknight who presented PowerPoints on Choice Program Highlights and Advanced Learning Opportunities. Discussion followed.				
(View PowerPoints)				
Superintendent Booker thanked Board Members for attending the Retreat.				
Chairman Ramsey thanked Board Members for attending the Retreat and staff for all of their work that went into preparing for the retreat.				
Meeting adjourned at 3:25 p.m.				
Approve:				
Jeff K. Ramsey, Chairman [Corporate Seal] W. Jeffrey Booker, Secretary				

Date Approved:

Meeting Date: 2/15/2021
Agenda Item Title/Topic: School Board Recognition Month
Type of Item: □ Consent □ Action ⊠ Information
Main Points: School Board Recognition Month is an annual observance when school districts across the United States take time to recognize and honor the citizens who are elected to serve on a local Board of Education.
To recognize and honor the Gaston County Board of Education, each member is being "adopted" by a school class and given a card from the school and a flower.
Fiscal Implications:
None
Recommendation: Bringing attention to School Board Recognition Month in Gaston County Schools recognizes the members of the Gaston County Board of Education and highlights their outstanding service to the public schools in our community.
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)

Meeting Date:	2/15/2021		
Agenda Item T	itle/Topic: Operat	tions Comm	nittee Report
Type of Item:	☐ Consent [□ Action	⊠ Information
Main Points:			
basis to discus member will pre	s operations-relate	ed projects a Board sumn	erations Committee meets on a periodic and issues. An Operations Committee marizing the Committee's discussions and ig.
Fiscal Implicati	ions:		
None			
Recommendati	ion:		
None			
Policy Implicat The Board will b		rations Comr	mittee discussions and information.
Strategic Goal	•		
Other: Policy or	Gen Statute. See	above.	
Submitted by:	Gary F. Hoskins, Associate Superin for Finance and C	ntendent	Department: Operations

Meeting Date: 2/	/15/2021		
Agenda Item Title	e/Topic: Currid	culum & inst	ruction Committee Report
Type of Item: □	Consent	□ Action	☑ Information
Main Points:			
			urriculum and Instruction Committee will e projects and issues.
A Curriculum and activities occurring			mber will present a report of committee cation Meeting.
Fiscal Implication	ns:		
Recommendation None	n:		
Policy Implication	ns:		
Board will be infor	med of Curricul	um and Instru	ction projects and issues.
Strategic Goal Al	lignment:		
Goal 1. Every stud	dent will graduat	e prepared fo	or post-secondary opportunities.
Submitted by: C	urriculum and Ir	nstruction Cor	mmittee
Department: Curr	riculum and Inst	ruction	

Meeting Date: 2/15/2021	
Agenda Item Title/Topic: COVID-19 Upd	ate
Type of Item: ☐ Consent ☐ Action	Information
Main Points:	
Human Services continue to partner in m	Gaston County Department of Health and nanaging COVID-19 related concerns. The to keep students and employees safe and
The Department of Health and Human S leadership to address concerns or issues in	Services communicates regularly with GCS volving staff and students.
The agenda item will update the Board of E and day-to-day district operations.	ducation on the district's COVID-19 response
Fiscal Implications:	
N/A	
Recommendation:	
Continue supporting Health Services' mana	gement of COVID-19 responsibilities.
Policy Implications:	
N/A	
Strategic Goal Alignment:	
Goal 5. Every student has the opportunity to	o learn in a safe school environment.
Submitted by: W. Jeffrey Booker	Department: Superintendent

Meeting Date: 2/15/2021			
Agenda Item Title/Topic: School Choice Highl	ight		
Type of Item: ☐ Consent ☐ Action ☒	Information		
Main Points:			
Staff will provide additional information about chartnerships that continue to support our choice so programs, including a new Early College with a formation	chools. This fall we will have 21 choice		
Fiscal Implications:			
N/A			
Recommendation:			
Continue supporting choice programs.			
Policy Implications:			
N/A			
Strategic Goal Alignment:			
Goal 2. Every member of our diverse population h instruction.	as the opportunity for individualized		
Submitted by: Melissa W. Balknight, De Associate Superintendent of Acade	partment: Academic Services emic Services		

Meeting Date: 2/15/2021							
Agenda Item Title/Topic: K-12 Summer Learning Plan							
Type of Item: □ Consent □ Action ⊠ Information							
Main Points:							
Staff will share information about the K-12 Summer Learning Plan. Gaston County Schools will offer remote summer school and face-to-face summer options. All rising K-12 students are eligible to participate. Summer learning will be offered at no cost to families. Information about summer school will be mailed to all families.							
Fiscal Implications:							
N/A							
Recommendation:							
Approve the K-12 Summer Learning Plan.							
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							

Meeting Date:	2/15/2021					
Agenda Item T	itle/Topic: Gast	on County Se	chools Calendar 2021-2022			
Type of Item:	☐ Consent	□ Action	⊠ Information			
Main Points:						
A calendar committee was formed based upon guidelines from the NC General Statute §115C-84.2. Administrators, teachers, central office staff, classified staff, parents, and community leaders participated in the process. The committee met on three occasions to draft a calendar that meet the guidelines set forth by the Statute. The calendar exceeds the 1025 hours of instruction and was viewed by the public for input through electronic survey.						
	ments from the su om the electronic		d like to introduce an option that addresses			
Fiscal Implicat	ions:					
N/A						
Recommendat	ion:					
Board of Educa	tion to review the	2021-2022 ca	alendar as an additional option.			
Policy Implicat	tions:					
			Calendar Committee. The Statute also as well as workdays, holidays, and annua			
Strategic Goal	Alignment:					
Other: Policy or	Gen Statute. Se	e above.				
Submitted by:	Joey Clinton		Department: Human Resources			

-			JUĽ	Y				_		JA	NUA	RY		
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11	12	13	14	15	16	17	2021-2022	16	FF	18	19	20	21	22
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	040	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	School Calendar	30	31					
			JGU	Water on the same			July 5 Holiday (Independence I			FFF	PIL	ARY		
S	M	П	W	TT.	F	S	August 16-20 Mandated Teacher Workd August 23 Students' First	days	M	7	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	E	Carlotte Constitution		September 6 Holiday (Labor I October 7 Parent-Teacher Conferen	Day)		4		2	4	
		10	11	5	6	7	(All Grade Le Early Dismissal for Stud	vels)		1	2	3	200	5
8	9			12	13	14	October 8 Optional Teacher Work Remote Learning	Davis	7	8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	October 26 End of First 9-Week Grading Pe November 4 9-Week Report Cards Distribu	riod 13	14	15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	November 11	Day) 20	21	22	23	24	25	26
29	30	31					Remote Learning l November 25-26Holidays (Thanksgiv	Day 21	28					
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			1	2	3	4	Teacher Annual Le December 31 Holiday (New Year's I	eave		1	2	3	4	5
5	(6)	7	8	9	10	11	January 14 End of Second 9-Week Grading Pe January 17 Holiday (Martin Luther King I	riod	7	8	9	10	11	12
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	January 18-19 Mandated Teacher Worke January 20 9-Week Report Cards Distribu	days 🚜 🥱	14	15	16	17	18	19
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	February 21 Optional Teacher Work Remote Learning I	day	21	22	23	24	25	26
26	27	28	29	30			March 10 Parent-Teacher Conference (All Grade Lev	nces	28	29	222 1423	31		
		OC	TOE	RFR			Early Dismissal for Stude March 11 Optional Teacher Work	ents			PRI			
S	M	П	W	П	F	S	Remote Learning March 25 End of Third 9-Week Grading Pe	Day	M	T	W	T	F	S
J	LA				4	On the Party of th	March 31 9-Week Report Cards Distribu	uted						
3							ADII 13 Holiday (SDI	ingi					-	•
	А		C	7	1	2	April 15 Holiday (Spr April 18-21 Student Holic Teacher Annual Le	days	А	Pos	•	109	1	2
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Gaston County Schools

2021-2022 School Calendar Worksheet

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Z15 Employee Days	179 Student Days - 84 First Semester; 95 Second Seme
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1,065 Instructional Hours (includes half days for three early dismissals) 42 days - First Semester; 42 - Second; 47 - Third; 48 - Fourth

10 teacher annual leave days

Includes typical state holidays for employees Inclement Weather Makeup Days

December 22

February 21

March 11

April 22

April 20 April 21

April 19

End of 9-Week Grading Periods

October 20, December 22, March 24, and June 1

¥ M

Report Cards Distributed

October 28, January 13, March 24, mailed by June 9 Possible Remote Learning Days (if required)

October 8

November 24

December 22

February 21

Graduation Day is Saturday, June 4

Parent-Teacher Conference Days are October 7 and March 10



 Optional Teacher Workday Holida
 Mandated Teacher Workday Teache
 Early Dismissal/Parent-Teacher Conferences Calendar Key

O Teacher Annual Leave O Haliday

9-Week Report Cards Distributed
 First/Last Day of School

Revised Semesters Draft February 9, 2021

Meeting Date:	Meeting Date: 2/15/2021						
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:							
B. Budget A C. Construct D. Naming E. Annual E F. Reduction G. Contract — Stude	 A. Recommended Personnel B. Budget Amendments & Budget Transfers C. Construction/Repair Change Orders D. Naming of Stanley Middle School Cafetorium E. Annual Engagement Letter with Independent Auditors F. Reduction in Force – Strategic Planning G. Contracts — Student Chromebook Purchases — SafeSchools Contract 						
Fiscal Implication	tions:						
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 Bo	ooker	Department: Superintendent				

Meeting Date: 2/15/2021
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

Meeting Date:	2/15/2021		
Agenda Item T	itle/Topic: Budg	et Amendme	nts and Budget Transfers
Type of Item:	⊠ Consent	⊠ Action	☐ Information
Main Points:			
in revenue and		are needed	approved budget to reflect actual changes to transfer money to proper expenditure
Fiscal Implicat	ions:		
Makes adjustme	ents to the 2020-2	21 budget.	
Recommendat	ion:		
Approval of the	attached listing of	f recommende	ed budget amendments and transfers.
Policy Implicat	ions:		
Policy Code: 83	00 Fiscal Manage	ement Standa	rds
Strategic Goal	Alignment:		
Other: Policy or	Gen Statute. Se	e above.	
Submitted by:	Gary F. Hoskins Associate Super for Finance and	intendent	Department: Finance

2020-2021 Budget Resolution - January Transfers Between Functions

State Public School Fund

		Expense	Expense
Function	Description	Increase	Decrease
5100	Regular Instructional Services		110,514
5200	Special Population Services		93,680
5300	Alternative Programs and Services		349,604
5400	School Leadership Services	30,143	
5800	School-Based Support Services	471,014	
6100	Support and Development Services	12,075	
6200	Special Population Support and Development Services		22,257
6500	Operational Support Services	35,513	
6600	Financial and Human Resource Services	23,344	
6900	Policy, Leadership and Communication/Public Information Services	3,966	

576,055	576,055

 ${\bf Explanation:} \ These \ transfers \ adjust \ budgeted \ amounts \ per \ requests \ from \ fund \ managers/principals.$

2020-2021 Budget Resolution - January Transfers Between Functions

Local Current Expense Fund

		Expense	Expense
Function	Description	Increase	Decrease
5100	Regular Instructional Services		127,386
5200	Special Population Services	14,766	
5300	Alternative Programs and Services		640
5400	School Leadership Services	19,402	
5500	Co-Curricular Services		4,273
5800	School-Based Support Services	5,806	
6100	Support and Development Services	12,911	
6200	Special Population Support and Development Services	3,688	
6400	Technology Support Services		7,181
6500	Operational Support Services		79,713
6600	Financial and Human Resource Services	82,852	
6700	Accountability Services	11,034	
6800	System-Wide Pupil Support Services	2,213	
6900	Policy, Leadership and Communication/Public Information Services	68,294	
7200	Alternative Programs and Services Support		1,773

220,967	220,967

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

2020-2021 Budget Resolution - January Transfers Between Functions

Federal Grants Fund

			Expense	Expense
-	Function	Description	Increase	Decrease
	5100	Regular Instructional Services	502,746	
	5200	Special Population Services		186,984
	5300	Alternative Programs and Services	97,438	
	5400	School Leadership Services		286,801
	5800	School-Based Support Services	6,052	
	6100	Support and Development Services		89,845
	6300	Alternative Programs and Services Support		64,042
	6500	Operational Support Services	14,943	
	8100	Payments to Other Governmental Units	277	
	8200	Unbudgeted Federal Grant Funds	6,217	

627,673	627,673

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

2020-2021 Budget Resolution - January Transfers Between Functions

Restricted Grants Fund

Function	Description	Expense Increase	Expense Decrease
5200	Special Population Services	4,950	
5300	Alternative Programs and Services		7,073
5800	School-Based Support Services		4,950
6100	Support and Development Services		661
6300	Alternative Programs and Services Support	1,073	
6500	Operational Support Services	6,000	
6600	Financial and Human Resource Services	661	

12,684	12,684

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

2020-2021 Budget Resolution - January Proposed Expenditures and Sources of Revenue

State Public School Fund

#	Function		Expense Increase (Decrease)	Revenue Increase (Decrease)
1	3100	Revenue - State Public School Fund		86,690
	5100	Regular Instructional Services	86,690	
	Internation	dment adjusts the Classroom Teachers allotment for the nal Faculty Exchange (IFE) & New Teacher Orientation (NTO) - Revision #38 FY21 (PRC001)		
2	3100	Revenue - State Public School Fund		159,321
	5200	Special Population Services	159,321	
		dment adjusts the Non-Contributory Employee Benefits allotment to r January expenses FY21 (PRC009)		
3	3100	Revenue - State Public School Fund		(207,686)
	5200	Special Population Services	(207,686)	
		dment adjusts the Children with Special Needs allotment for the transfers -Allotment Revision #37 (PRCO32)		
4	3100	Local Sources - Restricted		422,684
	5200	Special Population Services	422,684	
	Special Sta	dment budgets the Special Programs fund EC allotment for the te Reserve (SSR), Development Day Centers (DDC) & Community I Centers (CRC) 2nd installment - Allotment Revision #35 FY21		
Total State	Public Schoo	l Fund Amendments	461,009	461,009

2020-2021 Budget Resolution - January Proposed Expenditures and Sources of Revenue

Local Current Expense Fund

Loca	Local Current Expense i		nu	Expense Increase	Revenue Increase
<u></u>	#	Function	Description	(Decrease)	(Decrease)
	1	4800	Local Sources - Restricted		11,647
		5100	Regular Instructional Services	10,020	
		6400	Technology Support Services	1,627	
		This amend	ment budgets the E-Rate Technology allotment FY21 (PRC519)		

Total Local Current Expense Fund Account	11 ,647	11,647

2020-2021 Budget Resolution - January Proposed Expenditures and Sources of Revenue

Federal G	rants Fund Function	Description	Expense Increase (Decrease)	Revenue Increase (Decrease)
1	3600	Federal Revenue		44,947
	5100	Regular Instructional Services	44,947	•
		ment budgets the Career and Technical Education Grant - FY21		
2	3600	Federal Revenue		128,412
	5300	Alternative Programs and Services	45,265	
	5800	School-Based Support Services	78,700	
	8100	Payments to Other Governmental Units	4,447	
	This amend (PRC105)	ment budgets the Title I School Improvement Grant - FY21		
3	3600	Federal Revenue		323,684
	5300	Alternative Programs and Services	213,443	
	5800	School-Based Support Services	44,179	
	6300	Alternative Programs and Services Support	48,408	
	6500	Operational Support Services	5,754	
	8100	Payments to Other Governmental Units	11,900	
	This amend (PRC110)	ment budgets the 21st Century Community Learning Grant - FY21		
4	3600	Federal Revenue		1,870
	5800	School-Based Support Services	1,870	
	This amend Grant - FY21	ment budgets the Cares Act ESSERF-Learning Management System L (PRC166)		
Total Federa	al Grant Fund	Amendments	498,913	498,913

2020-2021 Budget Resolution - January Proposed Expenditures and Sources of Revenue

1 2 3	3700 5100 This amend (PRC375) 4800 5300	Local Sources - Restricted School-Based Support Services Iment adjusts the Elementary School Resource Officers fund to account for FY21 (PRC039) Local Sources - Restricted Regular Instructional Services ment adjusts the Building on Success Grant to account for expenses for FY21 Local Sources - Restricted Alternative Programs and Services	(Decrease) 56,850 110,611	(Decres 56,8 110,6
2	5800 This amend expenses for 3700 5100 This amend (PRC375) 4800 5300	School-Based Support Services Iment adjusts the Elementary School Resource Officers fund to account for FY21 (PRC039) Local Sources - Restricted Regular Instructional Services ment adjusts the Building on Success Grant to account for expenses for FY21 Local Sources - Restricted	110,611	110,6
	This amend expenses for 3700 5100 This amend (PRC375) 4800 5300	Iment adjusts the Elementary School Resource Officers fund to account for FY21 (PRC039) Local Sources - Restricted Regular Instructional Services ment adjusts the Building on Success Grant to account for expenses for FY21 Local Sources - Restricted	110,611	
	3700 5100 This amend (PRC375) 4800 5300	Local Sources - Restricted Regular Instructional Services Iment adjusts the Building on Success Grant to account for expenses for FY21 Local Sources - Restricted		
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3	This amend (PRC375) 4800 5300	ment adjusts the Building on Success Grant to account for expenses for FY21 Local Sources - Restricted		59,7
3	(PRC375) 4800 5300	Local Sources - Restricted		59,7
3	5300			59,7
		Alternative Programs and Services		
	This amend	Wretungste : Lobi guin and act sieca	59,751	
	FY21 (PRC4	ment adjusts the COVID-19 Pre-K Bonus fund to account for bonus expense for (29)		
4	4800	Local Sources - Restricted		7,7
	6100	Support and Development Services	7,759	
		ment adjusts the Commissioner's School of Excellence fund to account for or FY21 (PRC501)		
5	4800	Local Sources - Restricted		30,0
	5800	School-Based Support Services	30,000	
	This amend	ment budgets funds received for the DHH5 Nurse Grant for FY21 (PRC617)		
6	4800	Local Sources - Restricted		10,0
	5800	School-Based Support Services	10,000	
	This amend	ment budgets funds received for the Caromont Nurse Grant for FY21 (PRC618)		
7	4800	Local Sources - Restricted		5,0
	6500	Operational Support Services	5,003	
	This amend	ment budgets funds received for the Insurance Claims fund for FY21 (PRC840)		
			279,973	279,9

Total Restricte	d Grants Fu	nd Amendments

Meeting Date: 2/15/2021
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 Department: Operations

Associate Superintendent for Finance and 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 ROE	Contractor's Name	Project name	Description of Change	Contract	Change Order Amount
l.	Meteor	Belmont Middle School - Purchase and installation of white boards	Added four white boards to classipoms	\$109,750	\$2,133
02-15-21	02-15-21 Beam Construction Company	Belmont Middle School - New Construction	PCR#43 - Rock removal at sewe∤ line excavation (covered in allowances)	\$33,540,000	\$6,931
02-15-21	02-15-21 Beam Construction Company	Belmont Middle School - New Construction	PCR#60R - Electrical cost to relocate monumental sign (covered in allowances)	\$33,540,000	\$3,513
02-15-21	02-15-21 Beam Construction Company	Belmont Middle School - New Construction	PCR#63 - Extend concrete retaining wall height at football field to coordinate with specified grades (covered in allowances)	\$33,540,000	\$12,127
02-15-21	Beam Construction Company	Belmont Middle School - New Construction	PCR#68 - The specs for the infield and the pitcher mound were adjusted to reflect GCS middle school specs. (covered in allowances)	\$33,540,000	\$14,421
02-15-21	Environmental Holdings Group		CO#1 - Remove and dispose of panels and shelving attached to the wall (approx. 200 feet)	\$35,840	\$1,700

Meeting Date: 2/15/2021

Agenda Item Title/Topic: Naming of Stanley Middle School Cafetorium

Type of Item: ☑ Consent ☑ Action ☐ Information

Main Points:

On behalf of the School Improvement Team of Stanley Middle School (SMS) and over 2,800 individuals, which include current PTO members, current and past SMS parents, current and past SMS students, members of the Stanley City Council, community members, and former classmates, Principal Huffstetler would like to request that the 'cafetorium' at Stanley Middle School, be renamed the *Kelly Payne Robb Cultural Arts Hall.* Ms. Robb passed away unexpectedly in October 2020. Kelly Payne Robb was a lifelong resident of Stanley, North Carolina. She was a product of the Stanley schools and a graduate of East Gaston High School. Her entire professional career was as a music educator in Gaston County Schools, with 19 years at Stanley Middle School as the band director. In Kelly's words, she has been a Stanley Blue Devil since 1987, her first year as a Stanley Junior High student. The number of students' lives she has impacted are too numerous to count.

While Kelly Robb was responsible for the instrumental arts at SMS, she was an advocate and supporter of all of the arts programs including: chorus, art, and Spanish. The space that we wish to rename, in the short time we have been in our new Stanley Middle School, has been the location of band programs, musicals, Spanish dancing lessons, an art auction, and choral concerts. In each of these events, students of all cultures came together to form one united culture of performers, artistically enhancing all that were around them.

The Kelly Payne Robb Cultural Arts Hall will be a place for entertainment and for meetings. It will also be a fitting tribute to an educator who used music and the spirit of community to make a lasting mark, and forever change, the culture and the people of Stanley Middle School.

Fiscal Implications:

N/A

Recommendation:

The Operations Committee recommends approval of naming the cafetorium at Stanley Middle School the "Kelly Payne Robb Cultural Arts Hall".

Policy Implications:

Board Policy 9300 - Naming Facilities

Strategic Goal Alignment:

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

Submitted by: Gary F. Hoskins, CFO and

Associate Superintendent for Finance and Operations

Department: Operations

Meeting Date: 2/15/2021 Agenda Item Title/Topic: Annual Engagement Letter with Independent Auditors ☐ Information Type of Item: ⊠ Consent Main Points: The Contract to Audit Accounts from Anderson Smith & Wike PLLC ("ASW") is attached and has been recommended for approval by the Operations Committee. The Board approved a three year audit services contract with ASW on February 18, 2019 which covers the fiscal years ended June 30, 2019, 2020 and 2021. This represents the third year of the three year contract. Fiscal Implications: The annual audit will cost \$39,500 which is the same amount paid to ASW the past two years for audit services. Recommendation: Approval of the Contract to Audit Accounts from Anderson Smith & Wike, PLLC for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021.

Policy Implications:

Board policy 8310 - Annual Independent Audit.

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

CONTRACT TO AUDIT ACCOUNTS

The	Governing Board	
	Board of Education	
of	Primary Government Unit (or charter holder)	,
	Gaston County Schools	
and	Discretely Presented Component Unit (DPCU) (If applicable)	
	n/a	

Primary Government Unit, together with DPCU (if applicable), hereinafter referred to as Governmental Unit(s)

and Auditor Name

Anderson Smith & Wike PLLC

Auditor Address

4636 Greenhaven Lane Gastonia, NC 28056

HereInafter referred to as Auditor

for

Fiscal Year Ending	Audit Report Due Date
06/30/21	10/31/21

Must be within four months of FYE

hereby agree as follows:

- 1. The Auditor shall audit all statements and disclosures required by U.S. generally accepted auditing standards (GAAS) and additional required legal statements and disclosures of all funds and/or divisions of the Governmental Unit(s). The non-major combining, and individual fund statements and schedules shall be subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and an opinion shall be rendered in relation to (as applicable) the governmental activities, the business- type activities, the aggregate DPCUs, each major governmental and enterprise fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information (non-major government and enterprise funds, the internal service fund type, and the fiduciary fund types).
- 2. At a minimum, the Auditor shall conduct his/her audit and render his/her report in accordance with GAAS. The Auditor shall perform the audit in accordance with Government Auditing Standards if required by the State Single Audit Implementation Act, as codified in G.S. 159-34. If required by OMB Uniform Administration Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards (Uniform Guidance) and the State Single Audit Implementation Act, the Auditor shall perform a Single Audit. This audit and all associated audit documentation may be subject to review by Federal and State agencies in accordance with Federal and State laws, including the staffs of the Office of State Auditor (OSA) and the Local Government Commission (LGC). If the audit requires a federal single audit performed under the requirements found in Subpart F of the Uniform Guidance (§200.501), it is recommended that the Auditor and Governmental Unit(s) jointly agree, in advance of the execution of this contract, which party is responsible for submission of the audit and the accompanying data collection form to the Federal Audit Clearinghouse as required under the Uniform Guidance (§200.512).

If the audit and Auditor communication are found in this review to be substandard, the results of the review may be forwarded to the North Carolina State Board of CPA Examiners (NC State Board).

- 3. If an entity is determined to be a component of another government as defined by the group audit standards, the entity's auditor shall make a good faith effort to comply in a timely manner with the requests of the group auditor in accordance with AU-6 §600.41 §600.42.
- 4. This contract contemplates an unmodified opinion being rendered, if during the process of conducting the audit, the Auditor determines that it will not be possible to render an unmodified opinion on the financial statements of the unit, the Auditor shall contact the LGC Staff to discuss the circumstances leading to that conclusion as soon as is practical and before the final report is issued. The audit shall include such tests of the accounting records and such other auditing procedures as are considered by the Auditor to be necessary in the circumstances. Any limitations or restrictions in scope which would lead to a qualification should be fully explained in an attachment to this contract.
- 5. If this audit engagement is subject to the standards for audit as defined in *Government Auditing Standards*, 2018 revision, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, then by accepting this engagement, the Auditor warrants that he/she has met the requirements for a peer review and continuing education as specified in *Government Auditing Standards*. The Auditor agrees to provide a copy of the most recent peer review report to the Governmental Unit(s) and the Secretary of the LGC prior to the execution of an audit contract. Subsequent submissions of the report are required only upon report expiration or upon auditor's receipt of an updated peer review report. If the audit firm received a peer review rating other than pass, the Auditor shall not contract with the Governmental Unit(s) without first contacting the Secretary of the LGC for a peer review analysis that may result in additional contractual requirements.

If the audit engagement is not subject to *Government Accounting Standards* or if financial statements are not prepared in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) and fail to include all disclosures required by GAAP, the Auditor shall provide an explanation as to why in an attachment to this contract or in an amendment.

- 6. It is agreed that time is of the essence in this contract. All audits are to be performed and the report of audit submitted to LGC Staff within four months of fiscal year end. If it becomes necessary to amend this due date or the audit fee, an amended contract along with a written explanation of the delay shall be submitted to the Secretary of the LGC for approval.
- 7. It is agreed that GAAS include a review of the Governmental Unit's (Units') systems of internal control and accounting as same relate to accountability of funds and adherence to budget and law requirements applicable thereto; that the Auditor shall make a written report, which may or may not be a part of the written report of audit, to the Governing Board setting forth his/her findings, together with his recommendations for improvement. That written report shall include all matters defined as "significant deficiencies and material weaknesses" in AU-C 265 of the AICPA Professional Standards (Clarified). The Auditor shall file a copy of that report with the Secretary of the LGC.
- 8. All local government and public authority contracts for audit or audit-related work require the approval of the Secretary of the LGC. This includes annual or special audits, agreed upon procedures related to internal controls, bookkeeping or other assistance necessary to prepare the Governmental Unit's (Units') records for audit, financial statement preparation, any finance-related investigations, or any other audit- related work in the State of North Carolina, Approval is not required on contracts and involces for system improvements and similar services of a non-auditing nature.
- 9. Invoices for services rendered under these contracts shall not be paid by the Governmental Unit(s) until the invoice has been approved by the Secretary of the LGC. (This also includes any progress billings.)[G.S. 159-34 and 115C-447] All invoices for Audit work shall be submitted in PDF format to the Secretary of the LGC for approval. The invoice marked 'approved 'with approval date shall be returned to

the Auditor to present to the Governmental Unit(s) for payment. This paragraph is not applicable to contracts for audits of hospitals.

- 10. In consideration of the satisfactory performance of the provisions of this contract, the Governmental Unit(s) shall pay to the Auditor, upon approval by the Secretary of the LGC if required, the fee, which includes any costs the Auditor may incur from work paper or peer reviews or any other quality assurance program required by third parties (federal and state grantor and oversight agencies or other organizations) as required under the Federal and State Single Audit Acts. This does not include fees for any pre-issuance reviews that may be required by the NC Association of CPAs (NCACPA) Peer Review Committee or NC State Board of CPA Examiners (see Item 13).
- 11. If the Governmental Unit(s) has/have outstanding revenue bonds, the Auditor shall submit to LGC Staff, either in the notes to the audited financial statements or as a separate report, a calculation demonstrating compliance with the revenue bond rate covenant. Additionally, the Auditor shall submit to LGC Staff simultaneously with the Governmental Unit's (Units') audited financial statements any other bond compliance statements or additional reports required by the authorizing bond documents, unless otherwise specified in the bond documents.
- 12. After completing the audit, the Auditor shall submit to the Governing Board a written report of audit. This report shall include, but not be limited to, the following Information: (a) Management's Discussion and Analysis, (b) the financial statements and notes of the Governmental Unit(s) and all of its component units prepared in accordance with GAAP, (c) supplementary information requested by the Governmental Unit(s) or required for full disclosure under the law, and (d) the Auditor's opinion on the material presented. The Auditor shall furnish the required number of copies of the report of audit to the Governing Board uponcompletion.
- 13. If the audit firm is required by the NC State Board, the NCACPA Peer Review Committee, or the Secretary of the LGC to have a pre-issuance review of its audit work, there shall be a statement in the engagement letter indicating the pre-issuance review requirement. There also shall be a statement that the Governmental Unit(s) shall not be billed for the pre-issuance review. The pre-issuance review shall be performed prior to the completed audit being submitted to LGC Staff. The pre-issuance review report shall accompany the audit report upon submission to LGC Staff.
- 14. The Auditor shall submit the report of audit in PDF format to LGC Staff. For audits of units other than hospitals, the audit report should be submitted when (or prior to) submitting the final invoice for services rendered. The report of audit, as filed with the Secretary of the LGC, becomes a matter of public record for inspection, review and copy in the offices of the LGC by any interested parties. Any subsequent revisions to these reports shall be sent to the Secretary of the LGC along with an Audit Report Reissued Form (available on the Department of State Treasurer website). These audited financial statements, excluding the Auditors' opinion, may be used in the preparation of official statements for debt offerings by municipal bond rating services to fulfill secondary market disclosure requirements of the Securities and Exchange Commission and for other lawful purposes of the Governmental Unit(s) without requiring consent of the Auditor. If the LGC Staff determines that corrections need to be made to the Governmental Unit's (Units') financial statements, those corrections shall be provided within three business days of notification unless another deadline is agreed to by LGC Staff.
- 15. Should circumstances disclosed by the audit call for a more detailed investigation by the Auditor than necessary under ordinary circumstances, the Auditor shall inform the Governing Board in writing of the need for such additional investigation and the additional compensation required therefore. Upon approval by the

Secretary of the LGC, this contract may be modified or amended to include the increased time, compensation, or both as may be agreed upon by the Governing Board and the Auditor.

- 16. If an approved contract needs to be modified or amended for any reason, the change shall be made in writing and pre-audited if the change includes a change in audit fee (pre-audit requirement does not apply to charter schools or hospitals). This amended contract shall be completed in full, including a written explanation of the change, signed and dated by all original parties to the contract. It shall then be submitted to the Secretary of the LGC for approval. No change to the audit contract shall be effective unless approved by the Secretary of the LGC, the Governing Board, and the Auditor.
- 17. A copy of the engagement letter, issued by the Auditor and signed by both the Auditor and the Governmental Unit(s), shall be attached to this contract, and except for fees, work, and terms not related to audit services, shall be incorporated by reference as if fully set forth herein as part of this contract. In case of conflict between the terms of the engagement letter and the terms of this contract, the terms of this contract shall take precedence. Engagement letter terms that conflict with the contract are deemed to be void unless the conflicting terms of this contract are specifically deleted in Item 28 of this contract. Engagement letters containing indemnification clauses shall not be accepted by LGC Staff.
- 18. Special provisions should be limited. Please list any special provisions in an attachment.
- 19. A separate contract should not be made for each division to be audited or report to be submitted. If a DPCU is subject to the audit requirements detailed in the Local Government Budget and Fiscal Control Act and a separate audit report is issued, a separate audit contract is required. If a separate report is not to be issued and the DPCU is included in the primary government audit, the DPCU shall be named along with the primary government on this audit contract. DPCU Board approval date, signatures from the DPCU Board chairman and finance officer also shall be included on this contract.
- 20. The contract shall be executed, pre-audited (pre-audit requirement does not apply to charter schools or hospitals), and physically signed by all parties including Governmental Unit(s) and the Auditor, then submitted in PDF format to the Secretary of the LGC.
- 21. The contract is not valid until it is approved by the Secretary of the LGC. The staff of the LGC shall notify the Governmental Unit and Auditor of contract approval by email. The audit should not be started before the contract is approved.
- 22. Retention of Client Records: Auditors are subject to the NC State Board of CPA Examiners' Retention of Client Records Rule 21 NCAC 08N .0305 as it relates to the provision of audit and other attest services, as well as non-attest services. Clients and former clients should be familiar with the requirements of this rule prior to requesting the return of records.
- 23. This contract may be terminated at any time by mutual consent and agreement of the Governmental Unit(s) and the Auditor, provided that (a) the consent to terminate is in writing and signed by both parties, (b) the parties have agreed on the fee amount which shall be paid to the Auditor (if applicable), and (c) no termination shall be effective until approved in writing by the Secretary of the LGC.
- 24. The Governmental Unit's (Units') failure or forbearance to enforce, or waiver of, any right or an event of breach or default on one occasion or instance shall not constitute the waiver of such right, breach or default on any subsequent occasion or instance.
- 25. There are no other agreements between the parties hereto and no other agreements relative hereto that shall be enforceable unless entered into in accordance with the procedure set out herein and approved by the Secretary of the LGC.

- 26. E-Verify. Auditor shall comply with the requirements of NCGS Chapter 64 Article 2. Further, if Auditor utilizes any subcontractor(s), Auditor shall require such subcontractor(s) to comply with the requirements of NCGS Chapter 64, Article 2.
- 27. Applicable to audits with fiscal year ends of June 30, 2020 and later. For all non-attest services, the Auditor shall adhere to the independence rules of the AICPA Professional Code of Conduct and Governmental Auditing Standards, 2018 Revision (as applicable). Financial statement preparation assistance shall be deemed a "significant threat" requiring the Auditor to apply safeguards sufficient to reduce the threat to an acceptable level. If the Auditor cannot reduce the threats to an acceptable level, the Auditor cannot complete the audit. If the Auditor is able to reduce the threats to an acceptable level, the documentation of this determination, including the safeguards applied, must be included in the audit workpapers.

All non-attest service(s) being performed by the Auditor that are necessary to perform the audit must be identified and included in this contract. The Governmental Unit shall designate an individual with the suitable skills, knowledge, and/or experience (SKE) necessary to oversee the services and accept responsibility for the results of the services performed. If the Auditor is able to identify an individual with the appropriate SKE, s/he must document and include in the audit workpapers how he/she reached that conclusion. If the Auditor determines that an individual with the appropriate SKE cannot be identified, the Auditor cannot perform both the non-attest service(s) and the audit. See "Fees for Audit Services" page of this contract to disclose the person identified as having the appropriate SKE for the Governmental Unit.

- 28. Applicable to audits with fiscal year ends of June 30, 2021 and later. The auditor shall present the audited financial statements including any compliance reports to the government unit's governing body or audit committee in an official meeting in open session as soon as the audited financial statements are available but not later than 45 days after the submission of the audit report to the Secretary. The auditor's presentation to the government unit's governing body or audit committee shall include:
 - a) the description of each finding, including all material weaknesses and significant deficiencies, as found by the auditor, and any other issues related to the internal controls or fiscal health of the government unit as disclosed in the management letter, the Single Audit or Yellow Book reports, or any other communications from the auditor regarding internal controls as required by current auditing standards set by the Accounting Standards Board or its successor,
 - b) the status of the prior year audit findings:
 - c) the values of Financial Performance Indicators based on information presented in the audited financial statements; and
 - d) notification to the governing body that the governing body shall develop a "Response to the Auditor's Findings, Recommendations, and Fiscal Matters." If required under 20 NCAC 03 .0508.
- 29. Information based on the audited financial statements shall be submitted to the Secretary for the purpose of identifying Financial Performance Indicators and Financial Performance Indicators of Concern.

- 30. Applicable to charter school contracts only: No indebtedness of any kind incurred or created by the charter school shall constitute an indebtedness of the State or its political subdivisions, and no indebtedness of the charter school shall involve or be secured by the faith, credit, or taxing power of the State or its political subdivisions.
- 31. All of the above paragraphs are understood and shall apply to this contract, except the following numbered paragraphs shall be deleted (See Item 16 for clarification).
- 32. The process for submitting contracts, audit reports and invoices is subject to change. Auditors and units should use the submission process and instructions in effect at the time of submission. Refer to the N.C. Department of State Treasurer website at https://www.nctreasurer.com/state-and-local-government-finance-division/local-government-commission/submitting-your-audit
- 33. All communications regarding audit contract requests for modification or official approvals will be sent to the email addresses provided on the signature pages that follow.
- 34. Modifications to the language and terms contained in this contract form (LGC-205) are not allowed.

CONTRACT TO AUDIT ACCOUNTS

FEES FOR AUDIT SERVICES

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Code of Conduct (as applicable) and Go this contract for specific requirements. The presented to the LGC without this information.	
Financial statements were prepared by:	☐Auditor ☐Governmental Unit ☐Third Party
If applicable: Individual at Governmenta experience (SKE) necessary to oversee results of these services:	I Unit designated to have the suitable skills, knowledge, and/or the non-attest services and accept responsibility for the
Name: Tit	le and Unit / Company: Email Address:
OR Not Applicable [] (Identification of SKE Indi	vidual not applicable for GAAS-only audit or audits with FYEs prior to June 30, 2020.
(AFIRs), Form 990s, or other services not in the engagement letter but may not be in LGC. See Items 8 and 13 for details on ot 3. Prior to submission of the completed automate (if required) the Auditor may submore the billings for the last annual audit of the provided below conflict with the cap calcu	associated with audit fees and costs. Such fees may be included included in this contract or in any invoices requiring approval of the her allowable and excluded fees. Idited financial report, applicable compliance reports and amended in invoices for approval for services rendered, not to exceed 75% the unit submitted to the Secretary of the LGC. Should the 75% cap lated by LGC Staff based on the billings on file with the LGC, the services rendered in an audit engagement as defined in 20
NCAC .0503 shall be submitted to the Co before approval is a violation of law. (This with audits of hospitals).	mmission for approval before any payment is made. Payment paragraph not applicable to contracts and invoices associated
rimary Government Unit	Gaston County Schools
Audit Fee	\$ 39,500 plus reimbursement of reasonable out-of-pocket costs
Additional Fees Not Included in Audit Fee:	
	\$
Fee per Major Program	
Vriting Financial Statements .	\$
All Other Non-Attest Services	\$.
75% Cap for InterIm Invoice Approval not applicable to hospital contracts)	\$ 29,625.00
	DPCU FEES (If applicable)
Discretely Presented Component Unit	n/a
Audit Fee	\$
Additional Fees Not Included In Audit Fee:	
ee per Major Program	\$.
Writing Financial Statements	\$
All Other Non-Attest Services	\$
75% Cap for Interim Invoice Approval	\$

SIGNATURE PAGE

AUDIT FIRM

Audit Firm*	
Anderson Smith & Wike PLLC	•
Authorized Firm Representative (typed or printed)* Vince Quinn	Signature*
Date*	Email Address*
01/19/21	vquinn@asw-cpa.com

GOVERNME	ENTAL UNIT
Governmental Unit*	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
Gaston County Schools	A salib Cambra old
Date Primary Government Unit Governing Board App (G.s.169-34(a) or G.s.115C-447(a))	Moved Addit Colliact.
Mayor/Chairperson (typed or printed)*	Signature*
Date	Email Address
Chair of Audit Committee (typed or printed, or "NA")	Signature
Date	Email Address
	<u> </u>

GOVERNMENTAL UNIT - PRE-AUDIT CERTIFICATE

Required by G.S. 159-28(a1) or G.S. 115C-441(a1). Not applicable to hospital contracts.

This instrument has been pre-audited in the manner required by The Local Government Budget and Fiscal Control Act or by the School Budget and Fiscal Control Act.

Primary Governmental Unit Finance Officer* (typed or printed	Signature*
Gary Hoskins	·
Date of Pre-Audit Certificate*	Email Address*
	gfhoskins@gaston.k12.nc.us

Date of Pre-Audit Certificate*

CONTRACT TO AUDIT ACCOUNTS

Rev. 11/2020

SIGNATURE PAGE - DPCU (complete only if applicable)

DISCRETELY PRESENTED COMPONENT UNIT

DPCU*	
n/a	
Date DPCU Governing Board Approved Audit	
Contract* (Ref: G.S. 159-34(a) or G.S. 115C-447(a))	
DPGU Chairperson (typed or printed)*	Signature*
Date*	Email Address*
Chair of Audit Committee (typed or printed, or "NA")	Signature
Date	Email Address
	·
DPCU - PRE-AU	DIT CERTIFICATE
	(a1) or G.S. 115C-441(a1). hospital contracts.
This instrument has been pre-audited in the manner requi Control Act or by the School Budget and Fiscal Control Ac	
DPCU Finance Officer (typed or printed)*	Signature*

Remember to print this form, and obtain all required signatures prior to submission.

Email Address*

PRINT



Certified Public Accountants

January 21, 2021

Gaston County Schools 1351 Bradford Heights Gastonia, NC 28054

We are pleased to confirm our understanding of the services we are to provide for Gaston County Schools for the year ended June 30, 2021. We will audit the basic financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information, including the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the basic financial statements of Gaston County Schools as of and for the year ended June 30, 2021. Accounting standards generally accepted in the United States of America provide for certain required supplementary information (RSI), such as management's discussion and analysis (MD&A), to supplement Gaston County Schools's basic financial statements. Such information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. As part of our engagement, we will apply certain limited procedures to Gaston County Schools's RSI in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. These limited procedures will consist of inquiries of management regarding the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We will not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance. The following RSI is required by U.S. generally accepted accounting principles and will be subjected to certain limited procedures, but will not be audited:

- 1) Management's Discussion and Analysis.
- 2) Schedules of the Board's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension and OPEB Liabilities (Assets)
- 3) Schedules of Board Contributions

We have also been engaged to report on supplementary information other than RSI that accompanies Gaston County Schools's financial statements. We will subject the following supplementary information to the auditing procedures applied in our audit of the financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and will provide an opinion on it in relation to the financial statements as a whole in a report combined with our auditors' report on the financial statements.

- 1) Schedule of expenditures of federal and State awards
- 2) Individual non-major fund financial statements and budgetary schedules

Audit Objectives

The objective of our audit is the expression of opinions as to whether your financial statements are fairly presented, in all material respects, in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles and to report on the fairness of the additional information referred to in the second paragraph when considered in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole. The objective also includes reporting on-

- Internal control over financial reporting and compliance with provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and award agreements, noncompliance with which could have a material effect on the financial statements in accordance with Government Auditing Standards.
- Internal control over compliance related to major programs and an opinion (or disclaimer of opinion) on compliance with federal and State statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of federal and State awards that could have a direct and material effect on each major program in accordance with the Single Audit Act Amendments of 1996 and Title 2 U.S. Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 200, Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards (Uniform Guidance) and the State Single Audit Implementation Guide.

The Government Auditing Standards report on internal control over financial reporting and on compliance and other matters will include a paragraph that states that (1) the purpose of the report is solely to describe the scope of testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control or on compliance, and (2) the report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with Government Auditing Standards in considering the entity's internal control and compliance. The Uniform Guidance and State Single Audit Implementation Guide reports on internal control over compliance will include a paragraph that states that the purpose of the report on internal control over compliance is solely to describe the scope of testing of internal control over compliance and the results of that testing based on the requirements of the Uniform Guidance and the State Single Audit Implementation Guide. Both reports will state that the report is not suitable for any other purpose.

Our audit will be conducted in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America; the standards for financial audits contained in Government Auditing Standards, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States; the Single Audit Act Amendments of 1996; the provisions of the Uniform Guidance and the State Single Audit Implementation Guide, and will include tests of accounting records, a determination of major program(s) in accordance with the Uniform Guidance and the State Single Audit Implementation Guide, and other procedures we consider necessary to enable us to express such opinions. We will issue written reports upon completion of our single audit. Our reports will be addressed to the Board of Education of Gaston County Schools. We cannot provide assurance that unmodified opinions will be expressed. Circumstances may arise in which it is necessary for us to modify our opinions or add emphasis-of-matter or other-matter paragraphs. If our opinions on the financial statements or the single audit compliance opinions are other than unmodified, we will discuss the reasons with you in advance. If, for any reason, we are unable to complete the audit or are unable to form or have not formed opinions, we may decline to express opinions or issue reports, or we may withdraw from this engagement.

Audit Procedures - General

An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements; therefore, our audit will involve judgment about the number of transactions to be examined and the areas to be tested. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements. We will plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement, whether from (1) errors, (2) fraudulent financial reporting, (3) misappropriation of assets, or (4) violations of laws

or governmental regulations that are attributable to the government or to acts by management or employees acting on behalf of the government. Because the determination of abuse is subjective, Government Auditing Standards do not expect auditors to provide reasonable assurance of detecting abuse.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, combined with the inherent limitations of internal control, and because we will not perform a detailed examination of all transactions, an unavoidable risk exists that some material misstatements or noncompliance may exist and not be detected by us, even though the audit is properly planned and performed in accordance with U.S. generally accepted auditing standards and Government Auditing Standards. In addition, an audit is not designed to detect immaterial misstatements or violations of laws or governmental regulations that do not have a direct and material effect on the financial statements or on major programs. However, we will inform the appropriate level of management of any material errors, any fraudulent financial reporting, or misappropriation of assets that come to our attention. We will also inform the appropriate level of management of any violations of laws or governmental regulations that come to our attention, unless clearly inconsequential, and of any material abuse that comes to our attention. We will include such matters in the reports required for a Single Audit. Our responsibility as auditors is limited to the period covered by our audit and does not extend to any later periods for which we are not engaged as auditors.

Our procedures will include tests of documentary evidence supporting the transactions recorded in the accounts, and may include tests of the physical existence of inventories, and direct confirmation of receivables and certain other assets and liabilities by correspondence with selected individuals, funding sources, creditors, and financial institutions. We may request written representations from your attorneys as part of the engagement, and they may bill you for responding to this inquiry. At the conclusion of our audit, we will require certain written representations from you about your responsibilities for the financial statements; schedule of expenditures of federal and State awards; federal and State award programs; compliance with laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements; and other responsibilities required by generally accepted auditing standards.

Audit Procedures - Internal Controls

Our audit will include obtaining an understanding of the government and its environment, including internal control, sufficient to assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements and to design the nature, timing, and extent of further audit procedures. Tests of controls may be performed to test the effectiveness of certain controls that we consider relevant to preventing and detecting errors and fraud that are material to the financial statements and to preventing and detecting misstatements resulting from illegal acts and other noncompliance matters that have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. Our tests, if performed, will be less in scope than would be necessary to render an opinion on internal control and, accordingly, no opinion will be expressed in our report on internal control issued pursuant to Government Auditing Standards.

As required by the Uniform Guidance and the State Single Audit Implementation Guide, we will perform tests of controls over compliance to evaluate the effectiveness of the design and operation of controls that we consider relevant to preventing or detecting material noncompliance with compliance requirements applicable to each major federal and State award program. However, our tests will be less in scope than would be necessary to render an opinion on those controls and, accordingly, no opinion will be expressed in our report on internal control issued pursuant to the Uniform Guidance and the State Single Audit Implementation Guide.

An audit is not designed to provide assurance on internal control or to identify significant deficiencies or material weaknesses. Accordingly, we will express no such opinion. However, during the audit, we will communicate to management and those charged with governance internal control related matters that are required to be communicated under AICPA professional standards, Government Auditing Standards, the Uniform Guidance and the State Single Audit Implementation Guide.

Audit Procedures - Compliance

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement, we will perform tests of Gaston County Schools's compliance with provisions of applicable laws, regulations, contracts and agreements, including grant agreements. However, the objective of those procedures will not be to provide an opinion on overall compliance and we will not express such an opinion in our report on compliance issued pursuant to Government Auditing Standards.

The Uniform Guidance and the State Single Audit Implementation Guide requires that we also plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the auditee has complied with federal and State statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of federal and State awards applicable to major programs. Our procedures will consist of tests of transactions and other applicable procedures described in the OMB Compliance Supplement and the State Single Audit Implementation Guide for the types of compliance requirements that could have a direct and material effect on each of Gaston County Schools's major programs. For federal or State programs that are included in the Compliance Supplement or State Single Audit Implementation Guide, our compliance and internal control procedures will relate to the compliance requirements that the Compliance Supplement or State Single Audit Implementation Guide identifies as being subject to audit. The purpose of these procedures will be to express an opinion on Gaston County Schools's compliance with requirements applicable to each of its major programs in our report on compliance issued pursuant to the Uniform Guidance and the State Single Audit Implementation Guide.

Other Services

We will also assist in preparing the financial statements, schedule of expenditures of federal and State awards, and related notes of Gaston County Schools, in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles and the Uniform Guidance based on information provided by you. These nonaudit services do not constitute an audit under Government Auditing Standards and such services will not be conducted in accordance with Government Auditing Standards. We will perform the services in accordance with applicable professional standards. The other services are limited to the financial statements, schedule of expenditures of federal and State awards and related notes previously defined. We, in our sole professional judgment, reserve the right to refuse to perform any procedure or take any action that could be construed as assuming management responsibilities.

Management Responsibilities

Management is responsible for (1) designing, implementing, establishing, and maintaining effective internal controls relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, including internal controls over federal and State awards, and for evaluating and monitoring ongoing activities to help ensure that appropriate goals and objectives are met; (2) following laws and regulations; (3) ensuring that there is reasonable assurance that government programs are administered in compliance with compliance requirements; and (4) ensuring that management and financial information is reliable and properly reported. Management is also responsible for implementing systems designed to achieve compliance with applicable laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements. You are also responsible for the selection and application of accounting principles; for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements, schedule of expenditures of federal and State awards, and all accompanying information in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles; and for compliance with applicable laws and regulations (including federal and State statutes) and the provisions of contracts and grant agreements (including award agreements). Your responsibilities also include identifying significant contractor relationships in which the contractor has responsibility for program compliance and for the accuracy and completeness of that information.

Management is also responsible for making all financial records and related information available to us and for the accuracy and completeness of that information. You are also responsible for providing us with (1) access to all information of which you are aware that is relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of

the financial statements, including identification of all related parties and all related-party relationships and transactions, (2) access to personnel, accounts, books, records, supporting documentation, and other information as needed to perform an audit under the Uniform Guidance and the State Single Audit Implementation Guide, (3) additional information that we may request for the purpose of the audit, and (4) unrestricted access to persons within the government from whom we determine it necessary to obtain audit evidence.

Your responsibilities include adjusting the financial statements to correct material misstatements and confirming to us in the management representation letter that the effects of any uncorrected misstatements aggregated by us during the current engagement and pertaining to the latest period presented are immaterial, both individually and in the aggregate, to the financial statements as a whole.

You are responsible for the design and implementation of programs and controls to prevent and detect fraud, and for informing us about all known or suspected fraud affecting the government involving (1) management, (2) employees who have significant roles in internal control, and (3) others where the fraud could have a material effect on the financial statements. Your responsibilities include informing us of your knowledge of any allegations of fraud or suspected fraud affecting the government received in communications from employees, former employees, grantors, regulators, or others. In addition, you are responsible for identifying and ensuring that the government complies with applicable laws, regulations, contracts, agreements, and grants. Management is also responsible for taking timely and appropriate steps to remedy fraud and noncompliance with provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, or abuse that we report. Additionally, as required by the Uniform Guidance, it is management's responsibility to evaluate and monitor noncompliance with federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of federal awards; take prompt action when instances of noncompliance are identified including noncompliance identified in audit findings; promptly follow up and take corrective action on reported audit findings; and prepare a summary schedule of prior audit findings and a separate corrective action plan. The summary schedule of prior audit findings should be available for our review.

You are responsible for identifying all federal and State awards received and understanding and complying with the compliance requirements and for the preparation of the schedule of expenditures of federal and State awards (including notes and noncash assistance received) in conformity with the Uniform Guidance and the State Single Audit Implementation Guide. You agree to include our report on the schedule of expenditures of federal and State awards in any document that contains and indicates that we have reported on the schedule of expenditures of federal and State awards. You also agree to include the audited financial statements with any presentation of the schedule of expenditures of federal and State awards that includes our report thereon or make the audited financial statements readily available to intended users of the schedule of expenditures of federal and State awards no later than the date the schedule of expenditures of federal and State awards is issued with our report thereon. Your responsibilities include acknowledging to us in the written representation letter that (1) you are responsible for presentation of the schedule of expenditures of federal and State awards in accordance with the Uniform Guidance and the State Single Audit Implementation Guide; (2) you believe the schedule of expenditures of federal and State awards, including its form and content, is stated fairly in accordance with the Uniform Guidance and the State Single Audit Implementation Guide: (3) the methods of measurement or presentation have not changed from those used in the prior period (or, if they have changed, the reasons for such changes); and (4) you have disclosed to us any significant assumptions or interpretations underlying the measurement or presentation of the schedule of expenditures of federal and State awards.

You are also responsible for the preparation of the other supplementary information, which we have been engaged to report on, in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles. You agree to include our report on the supplementary information in any document that contains, and indicates that we have reported on, the supplementary information. You also agree to include the audited financial statements with any presentation of the supplementary information that includes our report thereon. Your responsibilities include acknowledging to us in the written representation letter that (1) you are responsible

for presentation of the supplementary information in accordance with GAAP; (2) you believe the supplementary information, including its form and content, is fairly presented in accordance with GAAP; (3) the methods of measurement or presentation have not changed from those used in the prior period (or, if they have changed, the reasons for such changes); and (4) you have disclosed to us any significant assumptions or interpretations underlying the measurement or presentation of the supplementary information.

Management is responsible for establishing and maintaining a process for tracking the status of audit findings and recommendations. Management is also responsible for identifying and providing report copies of previous financial audits, attestation engagements, performance audits, or other studies related to the objectives discussed in the Audit Objectives section of this letter. This responsibility includes relaying to us corrective actions taken to address significant findings and recommendations resulting from those audits, attestation engagements, performance audits, or studies. You are also responsible for providing management's views on our current findings, conclusions, and recommendations, as well as your planned corrective actions, for the report, and for the timing and format for providing that information.

You agree to assume all management responsibilities relating to the financial statements, schedule of expenditures of federal and State awards, and related notes, and any other nonaudit services we provide. You will be required to acknowledge in the management representation letter our assistance with preparation of the financial statements, schedule of expenditures of federal and State awards, and related notes and that you have reviewed and approved the financial statements, schedule of expenditures of federal and State awards, and related notes prior to their issuance and have accepted responsibility for them. Further, you agree to oversee the nonaudit services by designating an individual, preferably from senior management, with suitable skill, knowledge, or experience, to evaluate the adequacy and results of those services, and accept responsibility for them.

Engagement Administration, Fees and Other

We understand that your employees will prepare all cash, accounts receivable, or other confirmations we request, will locate any documents selected by us for testing and will provide copies of reports or other documents, where requested.

At the conclusion of the engagement, we will complete the appropriate sections of the Data Collection Form that summarizes our audit findings. It is management's responsibility to submit the reporting package (including financial statements, schedule of expenditures of federal and state awards, summary schedule of prior audit findings, auditors' reports, and a corrective action plan) along with the Data Collection Form to the federal audit clearinghouse. We will coordinate with you the electronic submission and certification. If applicable, we will provide copies of our report for you to include with the reporting package you will submit to pass-through entities. The Data Collection Form and the reporting package must be submitted within the earlier of 30 days after receipt of the auditors' reports or nine months after the end of the audit period, unless a longer period is agreed to in advance by the cognizant or oversight agency for audits.

We will provide copies of our reports to Gaston County Schools; however, management is responsible for distribution of the reports and the financial statements. Unless restricted by law or regulation, or containing privileged and confidential information, copies of our reports are to be made available for public inspection.

The audit documentation for this engagement is the property of Anderson Smith & Wike PLLC and constitutes confidential information. However, pursuant to authority given by law or regulation, we may be requested to make certain audit documentation available to an oversight agency or its designee, a federal agency providing direct or indirect funding, or the U.S. Government Accountability Office for purposes of a quality review of the audit, to resolve audit findings, or to carry out oversight responsibilities. We will notify you of any such request. If requested, access to such audit documentation will be provided under the supervision of Anderson Smith & Wike PLLC personnel. Furthermore, upon request, we may provide

Gaston County Schools Page 7

copies of selected audit documentation to the aforementioned parties. These parties may intend, or decide, to distribute the copies of information contained therein to others, including other governmental agencies.

The audit documentation for this engagement will be retained for a minimum of five years after the report release or for any additional period requested by an oversight agency. If we are aware that a federal or State awarding agency, pass-through entity, or auditee is contesting an audit finding, we will contact the party(ies) contesting the audit finding for guidance prior to destroying the audit documentation.

We expect to begin our audit in May 2021 and to issue our reports no later than October 31, 2021. Vince Quinn the engagement partner and is responsible for supervising the engagement and signing the reports or authorizing another individual to sign them.

Our fees for the audit and financial statement preparation services will be at our standard hourly rates and will not exceed \$36,500 for the audit and \$3,000 for the writing of the financial statements. Our standard hourly rates vary according to the degree of responsibility involved and the experience level of the personnel assigned to your audit. In addition, we will bill separately, at standard hourly rates, for any assistance provided with new GASB implementation disclosures or other nonattest services requested by management that we may provide. Our invoices for these fees will be rendered each month as work progresses and are payable on presentation. If we elect to terminate our services for nonpayment, our engagement will be deemed to have been completed upon written notification of termination, even if we have not completed our report(s). You will be obligated to compensate us for all time expended and to reimburse us for all out-of-pocket costs through the date of termination. The above fee is based on anticipated cooperation from your personnel and the assumption that unexpected circumstances will not be encountered during the audit. If significant additional time is necessary, we will discuss it with you and arrive at a new fee estimate before we incur the additional costs.

You have requested that we provide you with a copy of our most recent external peer review report and any letter of comment, any subsequent peer review reports and letters of comment received during the period of the contract. Our 2019 peer review report accompanies this letter.

We appreciate the opportunity to be of service to Gaston County Schools and believe this letter accurately summarizes the significant terms of our engagement. If you have any questions, please let us know. If you agree with the terms of our engagement as described in this letter, please sign the enclosed copy and return it to us.

Very truly yours,	
Anderson Smith & Wike PLLC	
Vince Quinn, CPA	
RESPONSE:	
This letter correctly sets forth the understanding of Gaston C	County Schools.
Officer signature:	Date:
Board Chair Signature:	Date:



Report on the Firm's System of Quality Control

To the Partners of Anderson Smith & Wike, PLLC and the Peer Review Committee, North Carolina Association of Certified Public Accountants

We have reviewed the system of quality control for the accounting and auditing practice of Anderson Smith & Wike, PLLC (the firm) in effect for the year ended March 31, 2019. Our peer review was conducted in accordance with the Standards for Performing and Reporting on Peer Reviews established by the Peer Review Board of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (Standards).

A summary of the nature, objectives, scope, limitations of, and the procedures performed in a System Review as described in the Standards may be found at www.aicpa.orb/prsummary. The summary also includes an explanation of how engagements identified as not performed or reported in conformity with applicable professional standards, if any, are evaluated by a peer reviewer to determine a peer review rating.

Firm's Responsibility

The firm is responsible for designing a system of quality control and complying with it to provide the firm with reasonable assurance of performing and reporting in conformity with applicable professional standards in all material respects. The firm is also responsible for evaluating actions to promptly remediate engagements deemed as not performed or reported in conformity with professional standards, when appropriate, and for remediating weaknesses in its system of quality control, if any.

Peer Reviewer's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the design of the system of quality control and the firm's compliance therewith based on our review.

Required Selections and Considerations

Engagements selected for review included engagements performed under Government Auditing Standards, including compliance audits under the Single Audit Act, and an audit of an employee benefit plan.

· As part of our peer review, we considered reviews by regulatory entities as communicated by the firm, if applicable, in determining the nature and extent of our procedures.

Opinion

In our opinion, the system of quality control for the accounting and auditing practice of Anderson Smith & Wike, PLLC in effect for the year ended March 31, 2019, has been suitably designed and complied with to provide the firm with reasonable assurance of performing and reporting in conformity with applicable professional standards in all material respects. Firms can receive a rating of pass, pass with deficiency (ies) or fail. Anderson Smith & Wike, PLLC has received a peer review rating of pass.

Koonce, Wooden & Haywood, LLP

Koonce, Wooten & Haywood, LLP

July 17, 2019

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Durham

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Meeting Date: 2/15/2021	
Agenda Item Title/Topic: Reduction in Force - Strategic Planning	
Type of Item: ⊠ Consent ⊠ Action □ Information	
Main Points:	
Endorsement of <u>possible</u> Reduction in Force criteria and procedures. NC Ge 115-325(e)(2) and Gaston County Schools' Board Policy 7820 require the St to present to the Board of Education a recommendation for a <u>possible</u> Reduction on system reorganization, declining enrollment, and/or financial exignation contains the required criteria for decision making.	uperintendent ction in Force
Fiscal Implications:	
An approval by the Board of the ability to implement the Reduction in For provide staff with needed flexibility to address this mandate.	ce Policy will
Recommendation:	
The Board will approve use of Reduction in Force if needed.	
Policy Implications:	
Board Policy 7820	
Strategic Goal Alignment:	
Other: Policy or Gen Statute. See above.	
Submitted by: Joey D. Clinton Department: Human Reso	nurces

Meeting Date:	2/15/2021			
Agenda Item T	itle/Topic: Contra	acts and Exp	penditures >\$100	0,000
Type of Item:	⊠ Consent	⊠ Action	☐ Information	
Main Points:				
and recommend	•	y the Board,		0 was reviewed by Staff less than \$100,000 but
Fiscal Implicat	ions:			
All contracts ar operational savi	•	vill be paid ι	using bond fundi	ng, capital proceeds or
Recommendat	ion:			
Approval				
Policy Implicat	ions:	,		
Board Policy 86	40			
Strategic Goal	Alignment:			
Other: Policy or	Gen Statute. See	above.		
Submitted by:	Gary F. Hoskins, C Associate Superir for Finance and C	ntendent	Department: Fir	ance and Operations

Meeting Date: 2/15/2021

Agenda Item Title/Topic: Student Chromebook Purchases

Type of Item: ⊠ Consent ⊠ Action □ Information

Main Points:

Purchase an additional 5,000 Lenovo 100e Gen 2 Chromebooks for student use in 2021-2022. The Board approved the purchase of 1,900 student Chromebooks in December 2020. These Chromebooks will be distributed to schools based on enrollment of rising 2nd, 6th, and 9th grade students which is projected to be 6,900 devices. Due to supply chain disruption and increased demand for Chromebooks, we are planning to order these devices earlier than normal so we will be able to distribute them to students at the start of school next year. This plan was presented at the January 15, 2021 Board Retreat and the February 1, 2021 Board Operation Committee meeting.

Fiscal Implications:

Funds will come from multiple sources including allotted state funds, local funds, and current TSS Operational budget for a total of \$1,075,000. Combined with the purchase of 1,900 devices approved in December 2020, the total cost of purchasing student Chromebooks will be approximately \$1.5 million.

Recommendation:

Approve the purchase of student Chromebooks.

Policy Implications:

Policy Code: 3220 Technology in the Educational Program

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

Meeting Date: 2/15/2021
Agenda Item Title/Topic: SafeSchools Contract
Type of Item: ⊠ Consent ⊠ Action □ Information
Main Points: SafeSchools is an online safety and compliance training professional development software that allows for employee tracking improving organization, streamline training, and saving time. The program has up to date training modules and allows us to custom create programs to meet individual needs.
Fiscal Implications: \$20,560
Recommendation: Board of Education's approval of contract for the 2021-2022 school year to assist with professional development training for all employees.
Policy Implications: Policy 7701 which requires ongoing development opportunities for licensed and support staff personnel.
Strategic Goal Alignment: Goal 3. Every employee is capable and committed to the education of the whole child.
Submitted by: Joey Clinton Department: Human Resources

Adams Auten Bassett Beam	Kourtney McKenzie	New Hire	Warlick Academy - 372
Bassett	Makanaia		Walter Academy 272
	IMCKenzie	New Hire	Cherryville Elementary School - 364
Beam	Sandra	Retirement	Bessemer City Primary - 338
	David	Promotion	McAdenville Elementary Schol - 448
Beatty	Laura	New Hire	Holbrook Middle School - 426
Bell	Eulastine	New Hire	Hershal H. Beam Elementary School - 492
Brigola	Jessica	New Hire	Hunter Huss High School - 428
Byers	Precious	Resignation	Pinewood Elementary School - 478
Cabe	Wanda	Retirement	Brookside Elementary School - 340
Cartwright	Altanese	New Hire	Southwest Middle School - 498
<u> </u>	Megan	Resignation	Carr Elementary School - 344
Clemmer	Joel	Resignation	Stuart W. Cramer High School - 378
Cogtas	Alliana	New Hire	Robinson Elementary School - 488
Collins	Sharon	Retirement	Woodhill Elementary School - 520
Cortes	Patricia	New Hire	Woodhill Elementary School - 520
Cox	Anthony	New Hire	Forestview High School - 396
Crocetto	Destiny	New Hire	Kiser Elementary School - 432
Curry	Julius	Resignation	Hunter Huss High School - 428
Dale	Jonathon	New Hire	Academic Services - 021
Devine	Audrey	Retirement	Stuart W. Cramer High School - 378
Doggett	Amy	New Hire	Bessemer City Middle School - 436
Illis	Francene	Retirement	Robinson Elementary School - 488
anger	Victoria	New Hire	Cramerton Middle School - 380
arrell	Gretchen	New Hire	Gardner Park Elementary School - 400
orero	Cristhian	Resignation	Pinewood Elementary School - 478
rase	Sarah	Resignation	Bessemer City Central School - 332
Genova	Ashley	New Hire	Student Support Services - 012
Glenn	Elaine	Transfer	Facilities - 004
Goodson	Chasteen	Resignation	Holbrook Middle School - 426
Hall	Priscilla	Resignation	Woodhill Elementary School - 520
	Catherine	Resignation	North Belmont Elementary School - 468
Harris	Jacquelyn	Resignation	North Gaston High School - 470
Harris	Rhonda	New Hire	Student Support Services - 012
Hartsell	Jennifer	Transfer	Pinewood Elementary School - 478
Helms	Taylor	Transfer	Pinewood Elementary School - 478
Hunter	Sharon	Resignation	Woodhill Elementary School - 520
liminez	Carolyn	Resignation	Kiser Elementary School - 432
lones	Amy	Promotion	Pinewood Elementary School - 478
Kincaid	Susan	Resignation	Gardner Park Elementary School - 400
Kirk	Tara	New Hire	Hershal H. Beam Elementary School - 492
Kirkpatrick	Jarrica	New Hire	Woodhill Elementary School - 520
Lawrence	Karen	New Hire	Edward D. Sadler Jr. Elem. School - 392
	Brenda	New Hire	Pinewood Elementary School - 478
Levasseur		Retirement	Facilities - 004
Love	Terry Sandra	Resignation	Southwest Middle School - 498
Lowery	Jordan	New Hire	Southwest Middle School - 498

Last Name	First Name	Category	School
Mammano	Jason	Resignation	Technology Support Services - 014
Manno	Maria	New Hire	Warlick Academy - 372
Manoff	Amber	New Hire	Catawba Heights Elementary School - 348
Marr	Whitney	New Hire	Robinson Elementary School - 488
McCarey	Jeremy	Transfer	Pinewood Elementary School - 478
McDowell	Pamela	New Hire	New Hope Elementary School - 464
McMillan	Jenny	New Hire	lda Rankin Elementary School - 482
McSwain	Tammie	Retirement	Carr Elementary School - 344
Melton	Hattie	Resignation	Mount Holly Middle School - 456
Merrill	Karen	New Hire	North Belmont Elementary School - 468
Moore	Carona	Resignation	Pleasant Ridge Elementary School - 480
Mullins	James	New Hire	Ida Rankin Elementary School - 482
Veely	Ronda	New Hire	Warlick Academy - 372
Nicholson	Deborah	Resignation	School Nutrition - 007
Ondrejech	Katie	New Hire	Sherwood Elementary School - 490
Parks	James	New Hire	Forestview High School - 396
Patrick	Charity	Resignation	Forestview High School - 396
Price	Lisa	New Hire	Pleasant Ridge Elementary School - 480
Putnam	Fallyn	Transfer	Gardner Park Elementary School - 400
Rankin	Pamela Leigh	Retirement	Costner Elementary School - 376
Rector	Sarah	Promotion	Academic Services - 021
Robinson	Lisa	Demotion	Brookside Elementary School - 340
Rodriguez	Lenin	Transfer	Cramerton Middle School - 380
Rogers	Karen	Resignation	Sherwood Elementary School - 490
Rolle	Sunshine Ciarra	Resignation	Hunter Huss High School - 428
Rust	Emily	New Hire	Ida Rankin Elementary School - 482
Santana Torres	Alida	New Hire	Hershal H. Beam Elementary School - 492
Seufert	Daniel	New Hire	Belmont Central Elementary School - 320
Sim	Angela	New Hire	Bessemer City Middle School - 436
Simmons	Tyisha	Resignation	Woodhill Elementary School - 520
Simpson	Caroline	Resignation	Cramerton Middle School - 380
Stalcup	Wendy	Transfer	Human Resource Services - 006
Stephens	Hayden	New Hire	Chapel Grove Elementary School - 352
Stewart	Melissa	Termination	Pleasant Ridge Elementary School - 480
Surretsky	Lauren	Resignation	Bessemer City Middle School - 436
Suwalski	Annette	New Hire	New Hope Elementary School - 464
Taylor	Jennifer	Resignation	Belmont Central Elementary School - 320
Ward	Brianna	Demotion	Cramerton Middle School - 380
Watson	James	New Hire	Mount Holly Middle School - 456
Wayman	Michael	New Hire	Warlick Academy - 372
Weston	Rebecca	New Hire	Pleasant Ridge Elementary School - 480
	Rosalind	Retirement	Cherryville High School - 360
White Whitmire	Charlotte	New Hire	Forestview High School - 396
	Stacey-Ann	New Hire	Hunter Huss High School - 428
Williams		New Hire	Ashbrook High School - 310
Withers	Selene	inew rife	USUDI DOK LUBU SCHOOL STO

Last Name	First Name	Category	School
Wright	Tausha	New Hire	Hunter Huss High School - 428
Yarbrough	Pamela	Demotion	School Nutrition - 007
Yates	Henry	Retirement	Facilities - 004
Zander	Tonya	New Hire	Ida Rankin Elementary School - 482