

**GASTON COUNTY**  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**REGULAR SESSION**



*Shaping Our Future*

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

## **Agenda Item**

**Meeting Date:** 3/15/2021

**Agenda Item Title/Topic:** Agenda Adoption

**Type of Item:** ☐ Consent ☒ Action ☐ Information

**Main Points:**

Consideration of Formal Agenda for Monday, March 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, March 15, 2021

5:30 p.m.

Agenda

Regular Meeting

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– 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.	
XX. Adjournment	

## **Agenda Item**

**Meeting Date:** 3/15/2021

**Agenda Item Title/Topic:** Good News

**Type of Item:** ☐ Consent ☐ Action ☒ Information

**Main Points:**

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

**Fiscal Implications:**

None

**Recommendation:**

None

**Policy Implications:**

None

**Strategic Goal Alignment:**

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

**Submitted by:** Todd Hagans, Chief Communications Officer

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

## BOARD AGENDA INFORMATIONAL ITEM

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**DEPARTMENT:** Communications/Public  
Information Department

**TOPIC: GOOD NEWS**

**FOR THE MONTH OF:** March 2021

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1. The five finalists for Gaston County Principal of the Year 2020 - 2021 are **Kevin Doran, Cherryville High School; Jill Payne, Hawks Nest STEAM Academy; Loretta Reed, Woodhill Elementary; Torben Ross, Robinson Elementary; and Tyler West, Pinewood Elementary.**
2. Fifteen high school students were selected for the prestigious North Carolina Governor's School. They are **Amarah Kendrick, Ashbrook; Aaron Hollar and Luis Tejada, East Gaston; William Barnes, Evan Friday, Margaret Lu, and Austin Moss, Forestview; Amy Hernandez Gutierrez, Hunter Huss; Navaeh Meadows and Kylie Puett, North Gaston; Lydia Crawford, Autumn Deal, Dylan Nicks, and Scotlyn Wyatt, South Point; and Hailey Royall, Stuart W. Cramer.**
3. The following students have advanced to the final round of the National Merit Scholars competition: **Sydney Lester and Grace Nehring, South Point; Marshall Pearson, Highland; and Jacob Wootton, Stuart W. Cramer.** The scholarship recipients will be announced this spring.
4. **South Point High School** senior **Peter Targonski** was named one of 100 finalists for the Goodnight Scholars Program at N.C. State University. The scholarship is valued at \$21,000 per year, and it is for students who plan to study in the STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) disciplines or affiliated education majors.
5. The "Do the Right Thing" award winners for February are **Kimora Lambert of Springfield Elementary; Abigail Saynorath of Cramerton Middle School; and Nathan Franks of North Gaston High School.** The awards program recognizes students for outstanding leadership, service, and character.
6. Four high school students were winners in the Region 6 Science Fair at UNC-Charlotte and qualified to compete in the state-level virtual competition hosted by N.C. State University. They are **Luigi Bortolussi, Highland; and James Gunter, Martin Inman, and Carter Robinson, Forestview.**
7. A number of elementary schools in **Gaston County Schools** observed Dr. Seuss' birthday as part of the annual "Read Across America" Week celebration.
8. The following student-athletes earned Big South 3A all-conference honors: **J.J. Moore, Noah Caulder, Sincere Love, and Ray Mackey; Hunter Huss; Jordan Robertson, Ashbrook; Camury Reid, Forestview; and Justin Rocquemore, Stuart W. Cramer.**

9. **Gaston County Schools** received more than 3,000 twelve-ounce bottles of hand sanitizer from the Greater Charlotte Auto Dealers Association. With a mission to support local communities, the association in partnership with Harris Teeter offered the individual bottles of hand sanitizer as added protection for students and school staff.
10. The following school financial secretaries completed the N.C. Association of School Business Officials' (NCASBO) School Treasurers Academy: **Wendy Hawkins, Catawba Heights Elementary; Jessica Higgins, Pleasant Ridge Elementary; Aenita Hudspeth, Pinewood Elementary; Rhonda Peregory, Bessemer City Primary; Carla Steele, John Chavis Middle School; and Tina Walker, Hunter Huss High School.** The professional development program included sessions that focused on school finance law, internal controls, general accounting concepts, and other school bookkeeping topics.
11. The **Ashbrook High School** "Cares Campaign" collected 1,827 cans of chicken noodle soup and Gatorade for Cancer Services of Gaston County.
12. To celebrate **W.B. Beam Intermediate** students meeting their iReady goals, students had the opportunity to throw a pie in principal **Todd Dellinger's** face.
13. **Belmont Middle School** students collected more than 440 gently-used books to distribute to students at a local elementary school. The book collection was a part of the "Read Across America" celebration.
14. **Bessemer City High School** senior **Kaytlinn Lawson** won first place in the Keep Gastonia Beautiful Arbor Day art contest.
15. **Bessemer City High School** girls' basketball coach **Billy James** was named the Southern Piedmont 1A Coach of the Year. In addition, sophomore **Janiya Adams** was named the Southern Piedmont 1A Conference Player of the Year, and **Daejah Hardin** and **Imani Rhodes** earned all-conference recognition.
16. **Bessemer City High School** sophomore **Randall Pettus** was named an all-district first team performer by the N.C. Basketball Coaches Association. He also earned Southern Piedmont 1A all-conference recognition.
17. **Cherryville High School** student-athletes **Terayha Bess, Lavonte Hughes, and Austin Thompson** earned all-conference honors for the Southern Piedmont 1A conference.
18. During the month of February, the **Cramerton Middle School** student council sponsored a pop tabs drive for the Ronald McDonald House of Charlotte. The collection resulted in 26 pounds of pop tabs being sent to a local recycling facility. The aluminum is exchanged for cash that is used to support families at the Ronald McDonald House.
19. **East Gaston High School** student-athletes **MaKayla Boyd, A.J. Price, and Trenton Sherill** earned all-conference honors for the Southwestern 2A conference.
20. **Forestview High School** senior **Anie Sery** was awarded the George B. King, Jr. Civil Engineering Scholarship from UNC-Charlotte.

21. **Grier Middle School** began a new school-wide iReady initiative with the purpose of increasing iReady use among students. In five weeks, student engagement increased from 58 to 92 percent in math and 55 to 86 percent in English/language arts.
22. **Highland School of Technology** freshman **Addie McCraw** earned all-conference recognition for the Southern Piedmont 1A conference.
23. **Mount Holly Middle School** raised more than \$2,400 for the Special Olympics of Gaston County.
24. **New Hope Elementary** raised more than \$12,000 for the American Heart Association.
25. **Page Primary** installed a new art kiln, which was bought with funds raised through the school's virtual dance-a-thon.
26. Students at **Page Primary** are participating in a monthly iReady Challenge. When students meet their iReady goal, they get a colored silicon bracelet for being a "Page iReady Star." Students who meet their goal each month of second semester will get to participate in a drawing for prizes.
27. Teachers and staff at **Page Primary** received care packages from the PTO and Park Street United Methodist Church as the school transitioned from Plan B to Plan A.
28. **Pleasant Ridge Elementary** teachers in art, music, physical education, band, innovation station, and counseling teamed up with the Gaston County Virtual Academy to provide engaging and interactive experiences for fourth grade students.
29. **Pinewood Elementary** completed its third year of the "One Book, One School" program by reading "The One and Only Ivan." This year's kickoff was a live virtual event, and the finale is a family art project. The school has a webpage dedicated to resources, read-aloud videos, and family trivia questions for the school-wide reading event.
30. **Sherwood Elementary** received a check for \$500 from the Laurel East Community Watch. In addition to the donation, the group is refurbishing the school sign and planning a spring beautification day.
31. Community volunteers from the United Way's Reading Soul Mates program are working virtually with students at **Sherwood Elementary**.
32. **Sherwood Elementary** received a \$100 donation from Bubba's 33 of Gastonia as the proceeds from a recent family night event at the restaurant.
33. **South Point High School** junior **Holly Kellogg** is a finalist in the Charlotte Humane Society's t-shirt artwork contest.
34. **South Point High School** senior **Ayden Baker** was named the Southwestern 2A Conference Player of the Year, and junior **Cooper Ray** was named to Southwestern 2A all-conference team.



## **Agenda Item**

**Meeting Date:** 3/15/2021

**Agenda Item Title/Topic:** Public Expression

**Type of Item:** ☐ Consent ☐ Action ☒ Information

**Main Points:**

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

**Fiscal Implications:**

None

**Recommendation:**

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

**Policy Implications:**

None

**Strategic Goal Alignment:**

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

**Submitted by:** Todd Hagans, Chief Communications Officer

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

## **Agenda Item**

**Meeting Date:** 3/15/2021

**Agenda Item Title/Topic:** Approval/Correction of Minutes

**Type of Item:** ☐ Consent ☒ Action ☐ Information

**Main Points:**

Approval of Minutes of:

December 7, 2020 (Organizational Meeting)

February 1, 2021 (Legislative Meeting)

February 8, 2021 (Special Meeting)

February 15, 2021 (Regular Meeting)

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

**Fiscal Implications:**

None

**Recommendation:**

None

**Policy Implications:**

Validation of Board Proceedings.

**Strategic Goal Alignment:**

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

**Submitted by:** Dr. W. Jeffrey Booker

**Department:** Superintendent

**The Gaston County Board of Education  
Induction Ceremony and Organizational Meeting  
Monday, December 7, 2020  
9:00 a.m.**

**MINUTES**

The Gaston County Board of Education met in a special called meeting for the purpose of an Induction Ceremony for our re-elected and newly elected Board Members and for an Organizational Meeting to elect new officers on Monday, December 7, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. in the Board Room, 943 Osceola Street, Gastonia, NC. The meeting was conducted in accordance with social distancing requirements related to the coronavirus pandemic. The meeting was live on Spectrum Cable Channel 21 and The Gaston County Board of Education YouTube page. Those Board Members in attendance were: Dot Cherry, Kevin Collier, Justin Davis, Lee Dedmon, Dot Guthrie, Steve Hall, Robbie Lovelace, Brent Moore and Jeff Ramsey.

Additional attendees include: Superintendent W. Jeffrey Booker, Attorney Sonya McGraw, and Board Clerk Dana Luoto.

Chairman Moore called the December 7, 2020 Induction Ceremony to order at 9:10 a.m. and recognized Reverend Joe Bell pastor of Eastside Church of the Nazarene who delivered the invocation. Chairman Moore recognized Superintendent Booker who led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Moore recognized the Honorable David A. Phillips, Superior Court Judge who inducted the elected Board Members. Citizens elected to the Board of Education were:

Dorothy "Dot" Guthrie, *Gastonia Township*  
Beverly "Robbie" Lovelace, *Cherryville Township*  
Brent Moore, *Crowders Mountain Township*  
Jeffrey K. Ramsey, *At-Large Member*

The Honorable David A. Phillips presented the charge to the elected officials.

Superintendent Booker called the December 7, 2020 organizational meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and served as Chairman Pro Tempore as set forth in the NC Law and Board Policy. The start time for the meeting was delayed due to the swearing-in ceremony for newly elected and re-elected Board Members.

Superintendent Booker thanked Mr. Brent Moore, current chairman and Mr. Kevin Collier, current vice-chairman for their service with The Gaston County Board of Education.

Superintendent Booker recognized our newly elected and re-elected members – Mrs. Dot Guthrie, Mrs. Robbie Lovelace, Mr. Brent Moore and Mr. Jeff Ramsey.

Superintendent Booker acknowledged the remaining Board of Education Members – Ms. Dot Cherry, Mr. Kevin Collier, Mr. Justin Davis, Mr. Lee Dedmon and Mr. Steve Hall.

Superintendent Booker reviewed the rules of the meeting which are set forth by N.C. Law and our policy.

Superintendent Booker opened the floor for nominations for Chairman of The Gaston County Board of Education.

Ms. Dot Cherry nominated Mr. Brent Moore.

Mr. Kevin Collier nominated Mr. Jeff Ramsey.

**Motion**

The Motion was made by Mr. Kevin Collier; seconded by Mr. Justin Davis that the Board close nominations for Chairman of The Gaston County Board of Education.

A vote was taken and motion to close nominations for Chairman of The Gaston County Board of Education carried unanimously. (9-0)

The vote was called in the order in which nominations were received.

All in favor of Mr. Brent Moore as Chairman of The Gaston County Board of Education – Ms. Dot Cherry, Mrs. Dot Guthrie and Mr. Brent Moore (3).

All in favor of Mr. Jeff Ramsey as Chairman of The Gaston County Board of Education – Mr. Kevin Collier, Mr. Justin Davis, Mr. Lee Dedmon, Mr. Steve Hall, Mrs. Robbie Lovelace and Mr. Jeff Ramsey in favor (6).

Mr. Jeff Ramsey is named Chairman of The Gaston County Board of Education for the 2020-2022 term.

In accordance with NC Law and Board Policy, Chairman Ramsey began to preside over the meeting.

Chairman Jeff Ramsey opened the floor for nominations for Vice Chairman of The Gaston County Board of Education.

Mr. Brent Moore nominated Ms. Dot Cherry.

**Motion**

The Motion was made by Mr. Kevin Collier; seconded by Mr. Justin Davis that the Board close nominations for Vice Chairman of The Gaston County Board of Education.

A vote was taken and motion to close nominations for Vice Chairman of The Gaston County Board of Education carried unanimously. (9-0)

All in favor of Ms. Dot Cherry as Vice Chairman of The Gaston County Board of Education – Ms. Dot Cherry, Mr. Kevin Collier, Mr. Justin Davis, Mr. Lee Dedmon, Mrs. Dot Guthrie, Mr. Steve Hall, Mrs. Robbie Lovelace, Mr. Brent Moore and Mr. Jeff Ramsey in favor (9).

Ms. Dot Cherry is named Vice Chairman of The Gaston County Board of Education.

(Superintendent Booker to serve as Ex-Officio Secretary to the Board as set forth in the NC Law and Board Policy.)

Chairman Moore opened the floor for nominations for the Office of Assistant Secretary of the Board of The Gaston County Board of Education.

Mr. Kevin Collier nominated Mrs. Dana Luoto as Assistant Secretary of the Board; seconded by Mrs. Dot Guthrie.

**Motion**

The Motion was made by Ms. Dot Cherry; seconded by Mr. Steve Hall that the Board close nominations for the Office of Assistant Secretary of the Board of The Gaston County Board of Education.

The vote was called and passed unanimously. Mrs. Dana Luoto is elected to serve as Assistant Secretary of the Board of The Gaston County Board of Education.

There being no further business to conduct, motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Lee Dedmon; seconded by Mr. Kevin Collier; motion carried unanimously. (9-0)

The Board meeting adjourned at 10:11 a.m.

Approved:

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Jeff K. Ramsey, Chairman

[Corporate Seal]

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W. Jeffrey Booker, Secretary

Date Approved:

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**Gaston County Schools  
Board of Education  
Gaston County Legislative Meeting  
Monday, February 1, 2021  
Meeting 8:15 a.m.**

**Minutes**

The Gaston County Board of Education met in a special virtual meeting on Monday, February 1, 2021. The meeting was live on Spectrum Cable Channel 21 and The Gaston County Board of Education YouTube page. Those Board Members in attendance were: Chairman Jeff K. Ramsey, Vice Chairman Dot Cherry, Kevin Collier, Justin Davis, Lee Dedmon, Steve Hall, Robbie Lovelace and Brent Moore. (Dot Guthrie absent)

Additional attendees from Gaston County Board of Education included: Superintendent, W. Jeffrey Booker, Gaston County Board of Education Attorney Sonya McGraw, Administrative Assistant Andrea Stephens and Gaston County Board of Education Board Clerk Dana Luoto.

Attendees from the Legislative Delegation included: Senator Ted Alexander (arrived after meeting in progress) Representative Dana Bumgardner, Senator Kathy Harrington, Representative Kelly Hastings and Representative John Torbett.

Chairman Ramsey welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Below are items that were discussed:

**COVID-19**

- The mental health impact on instruction.
- Offer adequate implementation time for legislative mandates such as summer school.
- Funding flexibility is needed to provide safe learning opportunities for students.
- Prioritize vaccines for educators.

**Calendar**

- Provide local boards of education calendar flexibility. This would allow local school districts to align their calendar with local community college calendars and conclude first semester by the holiday break.
- The 2020-2021 school year start date of August 17 was beneficial to districts, students and staff. The earlier start date allowed for completion of exams prior to the holiday break.
- Currently, the proposed 2021-2022 first day of school for Gaston County Schools is August 23 which does not allow completion of exams prior to the holiday break.

**Average Daily Membership (ADM)**

- Ensure LEA funding remains stable and is not negatively affected by impact of the pandemic.
- Continue to hold local school districts harmless on ADM for the 2021-2022 school year.

—There is predicted to be a surge in kindergarten enrollment due to families electing not to enroll their children during the pandemic.

The Gaston County Legislative Delegation Meeting adjourned at 8:52 a.m.

Approved:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jeff K. Ramsey, Chairman  
[Corporate Seal]

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

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

**Gaston County Schools  
Board of Education  
Monday, February 8, 2021  
Special Meeting  
5:30 p.m.**

**MINUTES**

The Gaston County Board of Education met in a special meeting for the purpose of discussing the latest guidance for K-5 Plan A Implementation in the Board Room, 943 Osceola Street, Gastonia, NC. The Board of Education meeting was held virtually and conducted in accordance with social distancing requirements related to the coronavirus pandemic. The meeting was live on Spectrum Cable Channel 21 and the Gaston County Board of Education YouTube page. Those Board Members in attendance were: Chairman Jeff K. Ramsey, Vice Chairman Dot Cherry, Kevin Collier, Justin Davis, Lee Dedmon, Dot Guthrie (virtual), Steve Hall, Robbie Lovelace and Brent Moore.

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

Chairman Ramsey called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and welcomed everyone.

Chairman Ramsey recognized Superintendent Booker who introduced Mr. Steve Eaton, Public Health Director Gaston County Department of Health & Human Services. Mr. Eaton presented a PowerPoint on COVID-19 Update. Superintendent Booker presented a PowerPoint on K-5 Plan A Implementation. Discussion followed.

(View PowerPoints)

**Motion**

The motion was made by Mr. Kevin Collier; seconded by Mr. Justin Davis that the Board  
**Implement Plan A four days per week with Wednesday off for K-5 students  
beginning March 1, 2021**

**Amended Motion**

Mr. Lee Dedmon made a Motion to amend the First Motion; seconded by Mr. Kevin Collier that the Board

**Implement Plan A four days per week with Wednesday off for K-5 students  
beginning February 22, 2021**

A vote was taken and motion to amend the original item as presented failed. (3-6)  
Mr. Kevin Collier, Mr. Justin Davis and Mr. Lee Dedmon – voted for the amendment.



Ms. Dot Cherry, Mrs. Dot Guthrie, Mr. Steve Hall, Mrs. Robbie Lovelace, Mr. Brent Moore and Mr. Jeff Ramsey – voted against the amendment.

### **Original Motion**

The original motion was made by Mr. Kevin Collier; seconded by Mr. Justin Davis that the Board

**Implement Plan A four days per week with Wednesday off for K-5 students beginning March 1, 2021**

A vote was taken and motion to approve the item as presented carried. (7-2)

Ms. Dot Cherry, Mr. Kevin Collier, Mr. Justin Davis, Mr. Lee Dedmon, Mr. Steve Hall, Mr. Brent Moore and Mr. Jeff Ramsey – voted for original motion

Ms. Dot Guthrie and Mrs. Robbie Lovelace – voted against original motion.

### **Adjournment**

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

The Board Meeting adjourned at 7:04 p.m.

Approved:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jeff K. Ramsey, Chairman  
[Corporate Seal]

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

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

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

**MINUTES**

The Gaston County Board of Education met in a regular session on Monday, February 15, 2021 in the Board Room, 943 Osceola Street, Gastonia, NC. The Board of Education meeting was held virtually and conducted in accordance with social distancing requirements related to the coronavirus pandemic. The meeting was live on Spectrum Cable Channel 21 and the Gaston County Board of Education YouTube page. Those Board Members in attendance were: Chairman Jeff K. Ramsey, Vice Chairman Dot Cherry, Kevin Collier, Justin Davis, Lee Dedmon, Dot Guthrie (virtual), Steve Hall (virtual), 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 5:32 p.m. and welcomed everyone. Chairman Ramsey called for a moment of silence in honor of Mr. Terry Usery, former Principal and member of the Gaston County Board of Education, who passed away on Sunday.

**Invocation**

Superintendent Booker led the invocation.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Superintendent Booker led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Agenda Adoption - Action**

The Board considered Agenda Adoption – Action

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

**Good News – Information**

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

Superintendent Booker recognized Randall Pettus from Bessemer City High School who broke the single-game scoring record for boys basketball by scoring 60 points. The old record of 59 points dates back to 1969.

Superintendent Booker recognized Janiya Adams from Bessemer City High School who broke the single-game scoring record for girls basketball with 50 points. The old record of 47 points goes back to 1983.

Superintendent Booker recognized Lauren Tolbert from Highland School of Technology who recently won the 1A individual cross country state championship. Her time of 19 minutes and 15 seconds set a new 1A state record.

Superintendent Booker congratulated Stuart W. Cramer High School counselor Yeva Hall-Williamson who 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.

Superintendent Booker congratulated Scott Harrill, athletic director at Cherryville High School, for being selected for the Athletic Director of Excellence award that is presented by the North Carolina Athletic Directors Association. Mr. Harrill is one of 12 people to earn the recognition, which is given to nationally-certified athletic administrators for outstanding service and leadership.

Superintendent Booker recognized six of our financial secretaries who have completed the North Carolina Association of School Business Officials' School Treasurers Academy. The professional development program includes sessions that focus on school finance law, internal controls, general accounting concepts and other important topics related to school bookkeeping. Our financial secretaries include:

- Wendy Hawkins — Catawba Heights Elementary
- Jessica Higgins — Pleasant Ridge Elementary
- Aenita Hudspeth — Pinewood Elementary
- Rhonda Peregory — Bessemer City Primary
- Carla Steele — John Chavis Middle School
- Tina Walker — Hunter Huss High School

Superintendent Booker recognized students from Cramerton Middle School, Ashbrook High School, Stuart W. Cramer High School, East Gaston High School and Forestview High School who received a total of 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.

Superintendent Booker recognized Board of Education member Mrs. Dot Guthrie who received the prestigious Coretta Scott King-Virginia Hamilton Award for Lifetime Achievement that is presented by the American Library Association. The award is named for author and civil rights leaders Coretta Scott King and children's author Virginia Hamilton, who wrote more than 35 books during her career and received the prestigious Newbery Medal in 1975.

Superintendent Booker presented to the Board for consideration and approval – Gaston County Board of Education Resolution recognizing the significance of African-American literature and the Coretta Scott King Book Awards.

Superintendent Booker recognized Mr. Todd Hagans who presented the Resolution recognizing the significance of African-American literature and the Coretta Scott King Book Awards.

Mr. Hagans read the Resolution which is below:

Whereas, reading is the foundation for success, and our students are encouraged to imagine, discover, learn and grow through the exploration of literature; and

Whereas, since 1976, every American president has designated February as Black History Month in the United States, and the annual observance is intended to highlight the accomplishments and contributions of African Americans, including authors, illustrators, poets, essayists, novelists and others who have had a significant influence on African-American literature; and

Whereas, the Coretta Scott King Book Awards are presented each year by the American Library Association to recognize excellent books for children and young adults that were written and illustrated by African-Americans and reflect the African-American experience; and

Whereas, teachers across Gaston County, especially during Black History Month, are encourage to bring attention to the books that have won the Coretta Scott King Award as these literary works are ideal for classroom teaching and learning and student engagement.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved that the Gaston County Board of Education is proud to support enriching literature-based activities that promote reading, raise awareness of history and celebrate diversity and also commends the African American Museum of History and Culture at Loray Mill for its efforts to bring attention to the significance of African-American culture and literature.

Be It Further Resolved, that this resolution be made a part of the minutes of the Board of Education, adopted this the fifteenth day of February, 2021.

### **Motion**

Motion was made by Mr. Kevin Collier; seconded by Ms. Dot Cherry that the Board

**Approve Resolution Recognizing the Significance of African-American Literature and the Coretta Scott King Book Awards**

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

(View Resolution)

### **Public Expression – Information**

Hayley Brezeale

1850 Ashley Crossing Lane

Charleston, SC 29414

RE: Native American Mascots

Although Ms. Brezeale completed the Request to Speak Form, she did not appear at the meeting.

Brian Maloney

1249 Hoffman Road

Gastonia, NC 28054

RE: Draft Calendars for 2021-2022 and 2022-2023

Sarah Gillespie  
2143 Southridge Drive  
Belmont, NC 28012  
RE: Grading

### **Approval/Correction of Minutes**

The Board considered Approval of Minutes – Action

Motion to adopt minutes of January 15, 2021 (Regular Meeting) and January 15, 2021 (BOE Retreat) as presented was made by Mr. Justin Davis; seconded by Mr. Lee Dedmon; motion carried unanimously. (9-0)

### **School Board Recognition Month – Information**

Chairman Ramsey recognized Mr. Todd Hagans who expressed appreciation to School Board Members in recognition of School Board Recognition Month. Each year, we take pride in recognizing and honoring the nine citizens who serve on the Gaston County Board of Education. Unfortunately, we are not able to have students with us this evening to recognize our Board Members. However, each Board Member is being honored by one of our elementary schools, and the “adopted” school has provided each Board Member with a thank-you card and a flower.

Chairman **Jeff Ramsey** is being recognized by Catawba Heights Elementary;  
Vice-Chairman, **Dot Cherry** is being recognized by H.H. Beam Elementary;  
**Kevin Collier** is being recognized by Pinewood Elementary;  
**Justin Davis** is being recognized by Belmont Central Elementary;  
**Lee Dedmon** is being recognized by Gardner Park Elementary;  
**Dot Guthrie** is being recognized by Robinson Elementary;  
**Steve Hall** is being recognized by Carr Elementary;  
**Robbie Lovelace** is being recognized by Tryon Elementary;  
**Brent Moore** is being recognized by Chapel Grove Elementary; and  
**Superintendent Booker** is being recognized by Bessemer City Central Elementary.

### **Operations Committee Report – Information**

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

- Rebecca Huffstetler, Principal of Stanley Middle, requested that the “cafetorium”, at Stanley Middle School be named the “Kelly Payne Robb Cultural Arts Hall” in honor of the late Kelly Robb. Kelly’s entire professional career was as a music educator in Gaston County Schools with 19 years at Stanley Middle as band director. The Operations Committee is recommending that the Stanley Middle School cafetorium be named after Ms. Robb. This item is on the Consent Agenda.
- Joey Clinton, Executive Director of Human Resources, updated members on the renewal of the SafeSchools contract. SafeSchools is an online tool used for professional development and training at all levels. Mr. Clinton also recommended endorsement of possible use of the Reduction in Force (RIF) Policy, which can be used for strategic planning, if needed. This item is on the Consent Agenda.
- Aaron Slutsky, Chief Technology Officer, presented a plan for the purchase of an additional 5,000 Chromebooks for student use in grades 2, 6, and 9 based on the enrollment projections for the 2021-2022 school year. This item is on the Consent Agenda.
- Morgen Houchard, Executive Director of Auxiliary Services, gave an update on the following items:

—Transportation Department is currently working on refining the two-tier route model that was implemented in the fall of 2020 that allows all busses to support a first run for elementary schools (7:30 a.m. start) and a second run for middle and high school students (8:30 a.m. start).

—School Nutrition continues to serve meals each day at schools and with a Grab and Go service.

—Our safety and security team continues to work with principals and schools on drills, trainings and safety and security protocols.

—Our Facilities and Maintenance Department has completed over 10,000 work orders since July 2020. They continue to support all schools and central offices with COVID-19 guidance, support and PPE. An update on capital and bond projects was also presented.

- Gary Hoskins, Associate Superintendent and Chief Financial Officer, reviewed the Contract with Anderson Smith & Wike, PLLC. We are currently in the third year of the three year contract for our annual independent audit and would like to extend the contract. This item is on the Consent Agenda.

- Gary Hoskins presented members with a list of construction and repair change orders which are recommended for approval by the Board. This item is on the Consent Agenda.

- Paul Nault, Project Manager, and Morgen Houchard updated members on the status of the new Belmont Middle School and the progress regarding the Stanley Middle School roof.

- The meeting concluded with a walk-through of the new Belmont Middle School.

### **Curriculum & Instruction Committee Report – Information**

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

- Academic Services presented information about summer school and summer professional development.

- New offerings have been added to the course options for high school. A condensed version of the curriculum guide will be mailed to all rising eighth through twelfth grade students.

- Updates have been implemented for Career and College Ready Graduates (CCRG). Students are identified during their junior year.

- The department of elementary instruction shared information on standards-based grading.

- Staff provided information on athletics and parent updates regarding school choice programs.

### **COVID-19 Update – Information**

Chairman Ramsey recognized Superintendent Booker who introduced Ward Adcock III, MD, MHA, Vice President, Medical Affairs CaroMont Health. Dr. Adcock presented a PowerPoint on COVID-19 Vaccine. Discussion Followed.

(View PowerPoint)

### **School Choice Highlight – Information**

Chairman Ramsey recognized Dr. Melissa Balknight who presented a PowerPoint on School Choice Highlight. Discussion followed.

(View PowerPoint)

### **K-12 Summer Learning Plan - Information**

Chairman Ramsey recognized Dr. Melissa Balknight who introduced staff. Staff presented a PowerPoint on K-12 Summer Learning Plan. Discussion followed.

(View PowerPoint)

## **Gaston County Schools Calendar 2021-2022 – Information**

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

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

### **Superintendent's Comments**

Superintendent Booker thanked our elementary schools for the work they are doing to ensure a smooth transition to Plan A on March 1. Superintendent Booker also expressed appreciation to our local health officials for their partnership as we operate our schools during challenging times.

Superintendent Booker reported that football practice is underway in preparation for the start of the season on February 26. Additionally, we are offering baseball, softball, soccer and track and field as our spring sports for our middle schools.

Superintendent Booker announced we will have our spring semester Parent-Teacher Conference Day on Thursday, March 11. Students will be dismissed early, and virtual conferences will take place in the afternoon

Chairman Ramsey wished Mr. Kevin Collier and Superintendent Booker a "Happy Birthday."

### **Closed Session**

Chairman Ramsey asked the Board to consider going into Closed Session under, N.C.G.S. §143-318.11(a)(3) Consultation with Attorney and N.C.G.S. §143-318.11(a)(6) Personnel

Motion to go into Closed Session was made by Mr. Kevin Collier; seconded by Mr. Steve Hall; motion carried unanimously. (9-0)

The Board went into Closed Session at 7:18 p.m.

The Board returned to Open Session at 8:04 p.m.

**Adjournment**

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

The Board Meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

Approved:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jeff K. Ramsey, Chairman  
[Corporate Seal]

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

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



## **Agenda Item**

**Meeting Date:** 3/15/2021

**Agenda Item Title/Topic:** COVID-19 Update

**Type of Item:** ☐ Consent ☐ Action ☒ Information

**Main Points:**

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

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

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

**Fiscal Implications:**

N/A

**Recommendation:**

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

**Policy Implications:**

N/A

**Strategic Goal Alignment:**

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

**Submitted by:** W. Jeffrey Booker

**Department:** Superintendent

## **Agenda Item**

**Meeting Date:** 3/15/2021

**Agenda Item Title/Topic:** Operations Committee Report

**Type of Item:** ☐ Consent ☐ Action ☒ Information

**Main Points:**

The Gaston County Board of Education's Operations Committee meets on a periodic basis to discuss operations-related projects and issues. An Operations Committee member will present a report to the Board summarizing the Committee's discussions and recommendations occurring at their last meeting.

**Fiscal Implications:**

None

**Recommendation:**

None

**Policy Implications:**

The Board will be informed of Operations Committee discussions and information.

**Strategic Goal Alignment:**

Other: Policy or Gen Statute. See above.

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

**Department:** Operations

## **Agenda Item**

**Meeting Date:** 3/15/2021

**Agenda Item Title/Topic:** Curriculum & Instruction Committee Report

**Type of Item:** ☐ Consent ☐ Action ☒ Information

**Main Points:**

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

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

**Fiscal Implications:**

None

**Recommendation:**

None

**Policy Implications:**

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

**Strategic Goal Alignment:**

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

**Submitted by:** Curriculum and Instruction Committee

**Department:** Curriculum and Instruction

## **Agenda Item**

**Meeting Date:** 3/15/2021

**Agenda Item Title/Topic:** School Calendar

- **Gaston County Schools Calendar 2021-2022**

**Type of Item:** ☐ Consent ☒ Action ☐ Information

**Main Points:**

A Calendar Committee was formed based upon the guidelines of NC General Statute §115C-84.2. It consisted of school based administrators, teachers, students, classified employees, parents, community business professionals and central office staff. The committee met multiple times to draft the recommended calendar for the 2021-22 school year. There was a second calendar developed for the 2021-2022 school year based upon survey feedback from stakeholders. Both calendars exceed the required 1,025 hours of instruction and have been viewed by the public for input through electronic survey.

**Fiscal Implications:**

N/A

**Recommendation:**

Board of Education to review the 2021-22 calendar to provide approval.

**Policy Implications:**

NC General Statute §115C-84.2 guides the Calendar Committee. The Statute also controls when the school year begins and ends as well as workdays, holidays, and annual leave. Central Office staff members serve as advisors for the work sessions.

**Strategic Goal Alignment:**

Other: Policy or Gen Statute. See above.

**Submitted by:** Joey Clinton

**Department:** Human Resources



JULY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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18	19	20	21	22	23	24
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AUGUST						
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15	16	17	18	19	20	21
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SEPTEMBER						
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19	20	21	22	23	24	25
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OCTOBER						
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3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24/31	25	26	27	28	29	30

NOVEMBER						
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21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

DECEMBER						
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12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

# DRAFT

## Revised Semesters

### 2021-2022

### School Calendar



July 5 ..... Holiday (Independence Day)  
 August 11-13 ..... Optional Teacher Workdays  
 August 16-20 ..... Mandated Teacher Workdays  
 August 23 ..... Students' First Day  
 September 6 ..... Holiday (Labor Day)  
 October 7 ..... Parent-Teacher Conferences (All Grade Levels)  
 Early Dismissal for Students  
 October 8 ..... Optional Teacher Workday  
 Remote Learning Day  
 October 20 ..... End of First 9-Week Grading Period  
 October 28 ..... 9-Week Report Cards Distributed  
 November 11 ..... Holiday (Veterans Day)  
 November 24 ..... Optional Teacher Workday  
 Remote Learning Day  
 November 25-26 ..... Holidays (Thanksgiving)  
 December 22 ..... Optional Teacher Workday  
 Remote Learning Day  
 End of Second 9-Week Grading Period  
 December 23-24 ..... Holidays (Winter)  
 December 27 ..... Holiday (Winter)  
 December 28-30 ..... Student Holidays  
 Teacher Annual Leave  
 December 31 ..... Holiday (New Year's Day)  
 January 3-5 ..... Student Holidays  
 Teacher Annual Leave  
 January 6-7 ..... Mandated Teacher Workdays  
 January 13 ..... 9-Week Report Cards Distributed  
 January 17 ..... Holiday (Martin Luther King Day)  
 February 21 ..... Optional Teacher Workday  
 Remote Learning Day  
 March 10 ..... Parent-Teacher Conferences (All Grade Levels)  
 Early Dismissal for Students  
 March 11 ..... Optional Teacher Workday  
 Remote Learning Day  
 March 16 ..... End of Third 9-Week Grading Period  
 March 24 ..... 9-Week Report Cards Distributed  
 April 15 ..... Holiday (Spring)  
 April 18-21 ..... Student Holidays  
 Teacher Annual Leave  
 April 22 ..... Optional Teacher Workday  
 May 30 ..... Holiday (Memorial Day)  
 June 1 ..... Students' Last Day; Early Dismissal  
 June 2-3 ..... Mandated Teacher Workdays  
 June 4 ..... Graduation Day  
 June 6-7 ..... Optional Teacher Workdays

**Inclement Weather Makeup Days**  
 December 22 February 21 March 11  
 April 22 April 21 April 20 April 19

The Board of Education reserves the right to use early release days and Saturdays as makeup days for inclement weather. The Board may add days of employment to end of the school year.

Testing dates will be added to the calendar later when they are determined by the state.

#### Calendar Key

- Holiday
- First/Last Day of School
- Teacher Annual Leave
- Early Dismissal
- Mandated Teacher Workday
- Optional Teacher Workday
- 9-Week Report Cards Distributed
- Remote Learning Day

**Gaston County Schools**

P. O. Box 1397 Gastonia, NC 28053 (704) 866-6100  
 www.gaston.k12.nc.us GCS 21 Education Station

JANUARY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
2	3	4	5	6	7	1/8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

FEBRUARY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28					

MARCH						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
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13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

APRIL						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

MAY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
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15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

JUNE						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

## **Agenda Item**

**Meeting Date:** 3/15/2021

**Agenda Item Title/Topic:** School Calendar

- **Gaston Early College Calendar 2021-2022**

**Type of Item:** ☐ Consent ☒ Action ☐ Information

**Main Points:**

A calendar committee was formed to meet the guidelines of Gaston College's calendar for the 2021-2022 school year. The committee was composed of administrators, counselors, teachers, and students at both the college and school level to establish a calendar that meets the statutes that govern the State college system for the 2021-2022 school year.

**Fiscal Implications:**

N/A

**Recommendation:**

Board of Education to review the 2021-2022 calendar to provide approval.

**Policy Implications:**

The calendar for Gaston Early College meets the requirements dictated in NC General Statute 115C-84.2 for calendar requirements required for employees and students while working to align with Gaston College.

**Strategic Goal Alignment:**

Other: Policy or Gen Statute. See above.

**Submitted by:** Joey Clinton

**Department:** Human Resources



# Gaston Early College High School

## 2021-2022 **DRAFT** School Calendar

July 2021						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

21 employee days

August 2021						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

September 2021						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

22 employee days

October 2021						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

21 employee days

November 2021						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

22 employee days

December 2021						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

23 employee days

January 2022						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

21 employee days

February 2022						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28					

20 employee days

March 2022						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

23 employee days

April 2022						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

21 employee days

May 2022						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

21 employee days

June 2022						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		



School Closed / Holiday



Mandated Teacher Workday



Annual Leave



First and Last Day of School



Optional Teacher Workday



Optional Teacher Workday & Remote Learning Day

## Calendar Notes:

July 5 - Independence Day (Holiday)  
August 3 - Optional Teacher Workday  
August 4, 5, 6, 9 - Mandated Teacher Workdays  
August 10 - Students' First Day of High School  
August 23 - Students' First Day of Fall Semester College Classes  
September 6 - Labor Day (Holiday)  
September 24 - Optional Teacher Workday (& possible Remote Learning Day #1)  
October 11 - First 9-Week Grading Period Ends  
October 14 - Parent-Teacher Conferences  
October 18 - Optional Teacher Workday (& possible Remote Learning Day #2)  
October 19 - 9-Week Report Cards Distributed  
November 12 - Veterans' Day Observed (Holiday)

\*\*\*Gaston College doesn't observe Veterans' Day on Nov 11, so in order for GEC's GCS staff to receive this paid holiday, this holiday will be observed on Nov 12.\*\*\*

November 24 - Teacher Annual Leave  
November 25, 26 - Thanksgiving (Holidays)  
December 17 - Students' Last Day of Fall Semester College Classes  
December 17 - Second 9-Week Grading Period Ends  
December 20, 21 - Teacher Annual Leave  
December 22, 23, 24 - Christmas (Holidays)  
December 27, 28, 29, 30 - Teacher Annual Leave  
December 31 - New Year's Day (Holiday)  
January 3, 4 - Mandated Teacher Workdays  
January 5 - Students' First Day of Spring Semester  
January 6 - 9-Week Report Cards Distributed  
January 10 - Students' First Day of Spring Semester College Classes  
January 17 - Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day (Holiday)  
February 11 - Optional Teacher Workday (& possible Remote Learning Day #3)  
February 24 - Parent-Teacher Conferences  
March 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 - Optional Teacher Workdays (& possible Remote Learning Day #4 on March 7)  
March 15 - Third 9-Week Grading Period Ends  
March 23 - 9-Week Report Cards Distributed  
April 13 - Optional Teacher Workday (& possible Remote Learning Day #5)  
April 14 - Teacher Annual Leave  
April 15 - Easter Observed (Holiday)  
April 18, 19 - Teacher Annual Leave  
May 12 - Students' Last Day of Spring Semester College Classes  
May 13 - Gaston College Graduation (Bojangles Arena)  
May 19 - Early College High School Graduation  
May 20 - Students' Last Day of School / Fourth 9-Week Grading Period Ends  
May 23, 24 - Mandated Teacher Workdays  
May 25, 26, 27 - Optional Teacher Workdays  
May 30 - Memorial Day (Holiday)

Inclement Weather Make-Up Days: December 20, January 4, March 7, March 8, April 13



## **Agenda Item**

**Meeting Date:** 3/15/2021

**Agenda Item Title/Topic:** 2021-2022 Superintendent's Budget Request

**Type of Item:** ☐ Consent ☐ Action ☒ Information

### **Main Points:**

The school district is required by G.S. §115C-425 to operate under an annual balanced budget resolution. The 2021-2022 budget process began with a budget survey to GCS stakeholders in December 2020. Data obtained from the budget surveys was presented to the Board at the Board Retreat in January 2021 and Fund Managers prepared a budget request for their area of supervision in February 2021. Meetings were held with the Finance Budget Team and members of the Cabinet and/or Fund Managers to review the various budget requests. The Superintendent's Budget Request is based on information received from our stakeholders and Fund Managers. The final budget request will be presented to the Board for approval on April 19, 2021 and will be submitted to the County by May 15, 2021 as required by State law.

### **Fiscal Implications:**

N/A

### **Recommendation:**

N/A

### **Policy Implications:**

Board Policy 8100 – Budget Planning and Adoption

### **Strategic Goal Alignment:**

Other: Policy or Gen Statute. See above.

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

**Department:** Finance

## Agenda Item

**Meeting Date:** 3/15/2021

**Agenda Item Title/Topic:** Funding for Capital Projects

**Type of Item:** ☐ Consent      ☒ Action      ☐ Information

**Main Points:**

Proceeds received from the sale of school bond funds are deposited by the County into an interest-bearing account. As the school district uses these funds, these funds are withdrawn from the County's interest-bearing account and used for the authorized capital needs of the school district. Over time, the interest earned on these unused school bond proceeds increases and needs to be reallocated back to the school district. We must request approval from the County to reallocate these funds in order to be able to use these funds for the capital needs of the school district. The amount of accrued interest on existing school bonds totaled \$2,053,668 as of March 4, 2021.

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

**Fiscal Implications:**

Unallocated Interest from School Bonds:

2016 Bond	372,856
2017 Bond	67,100
2018 Bond	<u>1,613,712</u>
Total	\$ 2,053,668

Unused principal from School Bonds:

2016 Bond	\$ 707,550
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**Recommendation:**

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

**Policy Implications:**

N/A

**Strategic Goal Alignment:**

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

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

**Department:** Finance

## **Agenda Item**

**Meeting Date:** 3/15/2021

**Agenda Item Title/Topic:** Academic Services Update

**Type of Item:** ☐ Consent      ☐ Action      ☒ Information

**Main Points:**

Academic Services will provide an update on contracts being utilized to ensure staff members are provided the necessary research based resources which support increased academic achievement and student growth. These resources also support the continued implementation of the North Carolina academic standards. Information on Graduation 2021 will also be presented.

**i-Ready Reading and Math (K-8)** are products of Curriculum Associates. Curriculum Associates provides three diagnostic tests annually, professional development, and an online component, as well as additional resources for teachers to scaffold learning. Curriculum Associates will continue providing resources for inquiry-based mathematics instruction for kindergarten through eighth grade.

**Discovery Education (K-8)** provides standards-based digital curriculum resources for K–12 classrooms. The program is a K-8 curriculum resource to support the NC Science and Social Studies Essential Standards.

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

**Learning A-Z (K-5)** provides meaningful online reading practice on computers and mobile devices with hundreds of leveled books and corresponding quizzes offered at 29 levels of reading difficulty. Learning A-Z also encourages close reading skills and the reading and writing connection with interactive tools and constructed response quiz questions.

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

**Leader in Me (K-12)** was implemented in the Dallas area schools at the beginning of the 2019-2020 school year as a School Choice Program. Franklin Covey has created a framework for increasing the overall effectiveness and quality performance in one's personal life. This framework encompasses, consulting, training, implementation processes, and application tools. Leadership and organizational-oriented courses, services, materials and the license for use are available only from Franklin Covey.

**Ready Math (6-8)** is used in addition to utilizing iReady in middle schools. The Ready resource from Curriculum Associates is used to support middle school math. Ready exceeds expectations for relevance and rigor required to meet North Carolina Standards on the EOG tests. Ready aligns with national mathematical practices for problem solving and discourse.

**Actively Learn/Achieve Math (6-12)** provides comprehensive, rigorous content support for grades 6-12 social studies and 9-12 reading and science. Actively Learn recently acquired the company Achieve 3000 Math that provides support and practice for math in grades 9-12. Teachers have access to a diverse catalog of high-interest articles, authentic fiction, textbook sections, videos, science simulations, and more. They are also able to organize the information to fit our local scope and sequence of pacing. Actively Learn also allows for equitable access to novels across the district with a library of over 16,000 contemporary novels, plays and anthologies.

**Gizmos (6-12)** is an online interactive math and science simulation that allows educators to expose students to high level inquiry-based experiences in the classroom.

**Edgenuity (9-12)** is an online platform used for High School Credit Recovery, courseware for the Gaston Virtual Academy.

**TE21's (9-12)** CASE Benchmark Assessments are designed to gauge the academic progress of students and provide timely feedback that can be used by teachers to guide instruction.

**Canvas (6-12)** is a 6-12 learning management system (LMS) that has all the tools needed to create engaging content, design lessons, and assess student understanding. Canvas helps teachers manage collaborative groups, differentiate instruction, and develop blended instruction. Canvas makes it easier to identify student needs and guide them down the learning paths that are right for them.

**Educator's Handbook (K-12)** is a digital platform used to record minor incidents and office referrals for behavior. The platform allows staff members to review readily available information about student behavior trends and patterns.

**IXL (K-12)** is an online platform to support students with mathematics. It provides an individualized pathway for students based upon an initial assessment and allows teachers to assign work aligned to State academic standards.

**Edpuzzle (K-12)** is used by teachers K-12 to easily create interactive video lessons for students. Teachers can upload their own videos to the platform or adjust existing videos to fit their needs. They can also create and embed questions for students to respond as they watch the video. Edpuzzle integrates seamlessly into both Schoology and Canvas learning management systems.

**Modern Teacher (K-12)** is our partnership to bring about personalized instruction in all classrooms K-12. Their platform provides professional learning modules that help scale and support the work with our teachers. They also provide personnel to support district leadership in advancing our vision for the modern learning environment.

**Get Better Faster (K-12)** training will allow school leaders to build habits and muscle to use the See It, Name It, Do It, framework in order to lead effective coaching sessions that will build teacher capacity to improve student outcomes consistently and with success. Participants will learn through authentic practice, time for planning, video exemplars, and work with peers. Various turn-key tools will be revisited and applied in order to enhance current execution in schools.

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

**School Nurses** will be assigned to all schools. Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, GCS completed the Request for Proposal process to select appropriately licensed, local, and endorsed providers for 30 registered nurse (RNs) positions. The selected agencies were BrightStar Care, Maxim, and The Stepping Stones Group.

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

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

**Community Residential Funds** are provided by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction. These funds assist in providing services to children with disabilities who are placed in an approved residential center. Gaston County Schools partners with Holy Angels to provide services using these funds.

**Equal Eyes Vision Services** is a contract company that provides instruction to blind and visually impaired children. GCS contracts with them specifically to provide "orientation & mobility" services for students as a related service on IEPs. Orientation and mobility services include travel skills for safety and independence for persons with visual impairments, teaching students how to use canes and electronic travel aids, evaluating students for services, and consulting with school staff and parents.

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

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

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

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

**Graduation Plan**

Due to current COVID restrictions a graduation plan has been developed that meets current gathering restrictions and safety protocols.

**Fiscal Implications:**

N/A

**Recommendation:**

Continue supporting Academic Services resources for the 2021 - 2022 school year.  
Support the plan for Graduation 2021.

**Policy Implications:**

N/A

**Strategic Goal Alignment:**

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

<b>Submitted by:</b>	<b>Department:</b>
Derrick Jackson,	Academic Services
Executive Director of Elementary Instruction	
Cristi Bostic,	
Executive Director of Secondary Instruction	
Carrie Minnich,	
Executive Director of the Department for Exceptional Children	



## **Agenda Item**

**Meeting Date:** 3/15/2021

**Agenda Item Title/Topic:** High School Exam Schedules - Spring 2020-2021  
Traditional High Schools and Gaston Early College

**Type of Item:** ☐ Consent ☒ Action ☐ Information

**Main Points:**

High Schools are required by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) to administer final exams. Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, some students are receiving in-person instruction and some are receiving virtual instruction. The NCDPI Accountability Department requires that any student taking a State exam using the NC Test system must take the exam in-person on campus. This impacts all End-of-Course exams (EOCs) and many CTE final exams. In an effort to maintain social distancing on school campuses during exam week, the proposal is for all students taking a State exam to report to their home schools on their assigned day(s) and all teacher made exams be administered remotely.

Gaston Early College schedule: May 17-21, 2021 (May 21<sup>st</sup> is a make-up day)

Traditional High School schedule: May 20-26, 2021 (May 26<sup>th</sup> is a make-up day)

**Fiscal Implications:**

N/A

**Recommendation:**

Approve the final exam schedule as presented.

**Policy Implications:**

N/A

**Strategic Goal Alignment:**

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

**Submitted by:** Cristi Bostic,  
Executive Director of Secondary Instruction

**Department:** Academic Services

## **Agenda Item**

**Meeting Date:** 3/15/2021

**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:

- A. Recommended Personnel
- B. Budget Amendments & Budget Transfers
- C. Construction/Repair Change Orders
- D. Ashbrook High School Elevator Update
- E. Highland School of Technology Renovations
- F. Hunter Huss Auditorium Renovation
- G. Southwest Middle School Elevator Update
- H. Contracts
  - School Nurses Contract Update

**Fiscal Implications:**

None

**Recommendation:**

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

**Policy Implications:**

None

**Strategic Goal Alignment:**

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

**Submitted by:** Dr. W. Jeffrey Booker

**Department:** Superintendent

## **Agenda Item**

**Meeting Date:** 3/15/2021

**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

## **Agenda Item**

**Meeting Date:** 3/15/2021

**Agenda Item Title/Topic:** Budget Amendments and Budget Transfers

**Type of Item:** ☒ Consent      ☒ Action      ☐ Information

### **Main Points:**

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

### **Fiscal Implications:**

Makes adjustments to the 2020-21 budget.

### **Recommendation:**

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

### **Policy Implications:**

Policy Code: 8300 Fiscal Management Standards

### **Strategic Goal Alignment:**

Other: Policy or Gen Statute. See above.

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

**Department:** Finance

**Gaston County Schools**  
**Changes in Appropriations**

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

**State Public School Fund**

Function	Description	Expense Increase	Expense Decrease
5100	Regular Instructional Services		84,763
5200	Special Population Services	7,626	
5300	Alternative Programs and Services	295,904	
5400	School Leadership Services		20,380
5800	School-Based Support Services		260,561
6100	Support and Development Services	18,277	
6200	Special Population Support and Development Services	5,102	
6500	Operational Support Services	27,622	
6600	Financial and Human Resource Services	15,979	
6900	Policy, Leadership and Communication/Public Information Services		5,161
7200	Alternative Programs and Services Support	357	
		<u>370,866</u>	<u>370,866</u>

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

**Gaston County Schools  
Changes in Appropriations**

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

**Local Current Expense Fund**

Function	Description	Expense Increase	Expense Decrease
5100	Regular Instructional Services	884,997	
5200	Special Population Services		26,183
5300	Alternative Programs and Services		6,345
5400	School Leadership Services		139,585
5500	Co-Curricular Services		640,070
5800	School-Based Support Services	166,214	
6100	Support and Development Services	32,507	
6200	Special Population Support and Development Services	2,502	
6300	Alternative Programs and Services Support		9,042
6400	Technology Support Services		83,803
6500	Operational Support Services		86,545
6600	Financial and Human Resource Services		148,564
6700	Accountability Services	6,331	
6800	System-Wide Pupil Support Services	59,210	
6900	Policy, Leadership and Communication/Public Information Services		11,624
		<u>1,151,761</u>	<u>1,151,761</u>

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

**Gaston County Schools  
Changes in Appropriations**

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

**Federal Grants Fund**

Function	Description	Expense Increase	Expense Decrease
5100	Regular Instructional Services	1,082,731	
5200	Special Population Services	9,900	
5300	Alternative Programs and Services	51,370	
5800	School-Based Support Services		307,927
6100	Support and Development Services	27,551	
6200	Special Population Support and Development Services		48,620
6300	Alternative Programs and Services Support		355
6500	Operational Support Services		557,299
7200	Alternative Programs and Services Support		250,000
8100	Payments to Other Governmental Units		7,351
		<u>1,171,551</u>	<u>1,171,551</u>

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

**Gaston County Schools  
Changes in Appropriations**

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

**Restricted Grants Fund**

Function	Description	Expense Increase	Expense Decrease
5100	Regular Instructional Services		2,288
6100	Support and Development Services	2,288	
		<u>2,288</u>	<u>2,288</u>

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



**Gaston County Schools**  
**Changes in Appropriations**

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

**State Public School Fund**

#	Function	Description	Expense Increase (Decrease)	Revenue Increase (Decrease)
1	3100	Revenue - State Public School Fund		(100,287)
	5100	Regular Instructional Services	(100,287)	
		This amendment adjusts the Classroom Teachers allotment for the NCVPS sureup - Allotment Revision #45 FY21 (PRC001)		
2	3100	Revenue - State Public School Fund		10,344
	6500	Operational Support Services	10,344	
		This amendment adjusts the Non-Instructional Support allotment for November & December Sub Pay - Allotment Revisions #41 FY21 (PRC003)		
3	3100	Revenue - State Public School Fund		83,697
	5100	Regular Instructional Services	83,697	
		This amendment adjusts the Non-Contributory Employee Benefits allotment to account for February expenses FY21 (PRC009)		
4	3100	Revenue - State Public School Fund		1,720
	5100	Regular Instructional Services	1,720	
		This amendment budgets the School Technology Fund interest earned for November & December 2020 - Allotment Revision #41 FY21 (PRC015)		
5	3100	Revenue - State Public School Fund		12,524
	5200	School-Based Support Services	12,524	
		This amendment budgets funds for the Behavior Support Program Allotment - Allotment Revision #42 FY21 (PRC029)		
6	3100	Revenue - State Public School Fund		(4,065)
	5100	Regular Instructional Services	(4,065)	
		This amendment adjusts the Classroom Materials allotment for to actual - Allotment Revisions #24 & 28 FY21 (PRC061)		
7	3100	Local Sources - Restricted		8,032
	5200	Special Population Services	8,032	
		This amendment budgets the Special Programs fund EC allotment for the Special State Reserve (SSR) & Development Day Centers (DDC) 3rd installment - Allotment Revision #41 FY21 (PRC063)		
<b>Total State Public School Fund Amendments</b>			<b>11,965</b>	<b>11,965</b>

**Gaston County Schools  
Changes in Appropriations**

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

**Federal Grants Fund**

#	Function	Description	Expense Increase (Decrease)	Revenue Increase (Decrease)
1	3600	Federal Revenue		1
	5100	Regular Instructional Services	1	
		This amendment adjusts the Career and Technical Education Grant To actual- FY21 (PRC017)		
2	3600	Federal Revenue		64,570
	5200	Special Population Services	64,570	
		This amendment budgets additional funds for the Idea VI-B Handicapped Grant per leave - FY21 (PRC060)		
3	3600	Federal Revenue		1,186
	5200	Special Population Services	1,186	
		This amendment budgets additional funds for the IDEA VI-B State Improvement Grant - FY21 (PRC082)		
4	3600	Federal Revenue		10,500
	5200	Special Population Services	8,992	
	5800	School-Based Support Services	1,144	
	8100	Payments to Other Governmental Units	364	
		This amendment budgets the IDEA VI-B Special Needs Targeted Assistance EC Grant - FY21 (PRC118)		
5	3600	Federal Revenue		2,000
	6300	Alternative Programs and Services Support	1,931	
	8100	Payments to Other Governmental Units	69	
		This amendment budgets the IDEA VI-B Targeted Assistance for Preschool EC Grant - FY21 (PRC119)		
6	3600	Federal Revenue		222,083
	5800	School-Based Support Services	216,544	
	8100	Payments to Other Governmental Units	5,539	
		This amendment budgets the ESSERF-Digital Curriculum allotment - Allotment Revision #41- FY21 (PRC165)		

# Federal Grants Fund

#	Function	Description	Expense	Revenue
			Increase (Decrease)	Increase (Decrease)
7	3600	Federal Revenue		198,336
	5200	Special Population Services	198,336	
		This amendment budgets the GEER-Exceptional Children's Grant - Allotment Revision #45 - FY21 (PRC167)		
8	3600	Federal Revenue		736,274
	5200	Special Population Services	381,000	
	5300	Alternative Programs and Services	171,195	
	5800	School-Based Support Services	171,777	
	8100	Payments to Other Governmental Units	12,302	
		This amendment budgets the GEER-Specialized Instructional Support Personnel allotment - Allotment Revision #43 - FY21 (PRC169)		
9	3600	Federal Revenue		417,508
	5300	Alternative Programs and Services	403,051	
	8100	Payments to Other Governmental Units	14,457	
		This amendment budgets the GEER-Supplemental Instructional Services allotment - Allotment Revision #43 - FY21 (PRC170)		
<b>Total Federal Grant Fund Amendments</b>			<b>1,652,458</b>	<b>1,652,458</b>

**Gaston County Schools  
Changes in Appropriations**

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

**Restricted Grants Fund**

#	Function	Description	Expense Increase (Decrease)	Revenue Increase (Decrease)
1	4800	Local Sources - Restricted		211,410
	6600	Financial and Human Resource Services	211,410	
		This amendment adjusts the Central Office Administration budget to account for expenses for FY21 (PRC002)		
2	4800	Local Sources - Restricted		108,037
	5800	School-Based Support Services	108,037	
		This amendment adjusts the Elementary School Resource Officers budget to account for expenses for FY21 (PRC039)		
3	4800	Local Sources - Restricted		2,845
	5300	Alternative Programs and Services	2,178	
	6500	Operational Support Services	667	
		This amendment adjusts the Elise Grant to account for expenses for FY21 (PRC133)		
4	4800	Local Sources - Restricted		3,460
	5500	Co-Curricular Services	3,460	
		This amendment adjusts the NCHSAA-Coaches Certifications fund to account for expense for FY21 (PRC380)		
5	4800	Local Sources - Restricted		337
	5400	School Leadership Services	337	
		This amendment adjusts the Commissioner's School of Excellence fund to account for expenses for FY21 (PRC605)		
6	4800	Local Sources - Restricted		100,000
	5100	Regular Instructional Services	80,000	
	6500	Operational Support Services	20,000	
		This amendment budgets funds received for the Caromont-East Gaston Grant for FY21 (PRC619)		

**Restricted Grants Fund**

#	Function	Description	Expense	Revenue
			Increase (Decrease)	Increase (Decrease)
7	4800	Local Sources - Restricted		28,000
	6500	Operational Support Services	28,000	
		This amendment budgets funds received for the Transportation Activity Buses fund for FY21 (PRC706)		
8	4800	Local Sources - Restricted		2,909
	6500	Operational Support Services	2,909	
		This amendment budgets funds received for the Insurance Claims fund for FY21 (PRC840)		
			<u>456,998</u>	<u>456,998</u>

**Total Restricted Grants Fund Amendments**

## **Agenda Item**

**Meeting Date:** 3/15/2021

**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  
Associate Superintendent  
for Finance and Operations

**Department:** Operations

## GCS CHANGE ORDER NOTIFICATION

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

Presented to BOE	Contractor's Name	Project name	Description of Change	Contract Amount	Change Order Amount
03-15-21	Beam Construction Company	Belmont Middle School - New Construction	PCR#45R - Added bottle filler stations at all 7 water coolers (covered in allowances)	\$33,540,000	\$6,433
03-15-21	Beam Construction Company	Belmont Middle School - New Construction	PCR#47 - Landscape revisions which include a reduction in tree buffer along McKee Farm Road and added tree buffer along Wildcat Way (covered in allowances)	\$33,540,000	\$1,807
03-15-21	Beam Construction Company	Belmont Middle School - New Construction	PCR#58 - Main lobby design improvements - stair tread and paint (covered in allowances)	\$33,540,000	\$14,022
03-15-21	Beam Construction Company	Belmont Middle School - New Construction	PCR#59 - Revisions to paint colors	\$33,540,000	\$4,104
03-15-21	Beam Construction Company	Belmont Middle School - New Construction	PCR#61 - Security camera relocation (covered in allowances)	\$33,540,000	\$7,808
03-15-21	Beam Construction Company	Belmont Middle School - New Construction	PCR#65 - Change phasing of electrical service to kiln and match equipment requirements (covered in allowances)	\$33,540,000	\$944
03-15-21	Beam Construction Company	Belmont Middle School - New Construction	PCR#66 - Add electrical service for unit heater relocated to pump room (covered in allowances)	\$33,540,000	\$572
03-15-21	Beam Construction Company	Belmont Middle School - New Construction	PCR#68 - Change entry canopy light fixtures from linear fixtures to column mounted fixtures (covered in allowances)	\$33,540,000	\$10,959

## **Agenda Item**

**Meeting Date:** 3/15/2021

**Agenda Item Title/Topic:** Ashbrook High School Elevator Update

**Type of Item:** ☒ **Consent**      ☒ **Action**      ☐ **Information**

### **Main Points:**

Ashbrook High School's elevator needs to be updated due to its age and difficulty in finding replacement parts to keep the elevator operational. A reliable and operational elevator is important to the overall safety and efficient operation of a multi-story school. The update to the elevator was put out to bid. We received bids from two vendors and another vendor responded that they could not submit a bid since they would not be able to complete the project prior to the start of school in August 2021. The lowest bid was provided by Carolina Elevator Service Inc.

### **Fiscal Implications:**

The low bid for this project is \$103,162. Funding will come from the 2018 school bonds.

### **Recommendation:**

Approve the low bid and authorize staff to update the elevator at Ashbrook High School.

### **Policy Implications:**

Policy Code: 9200 Care and Maintenance of Facilities

### **Strategic Goal Alignment:**

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

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

**Department:** Auxiliary Services



## **Agenda Item**

**Meeting Date:** 3/15/2021

**Agenda Item Title/Topic:** Highland School of Technology Renovations

**Type of Item:** ☒ **Consent**      ☒ **Action**      ☐ **Information**

### **Main Points:**

Highland School of Technology was originally constructed in 1954. It was renovated and converted to a magnet school in 2000. The current mechanical, electrical, and HVAC systems are now outdated and need to be renovated. The scope of this project includes repair and replacement to the existing electrical systems, HVAC units and ventilation in all classrooms located on the "C" wing. Also included in the scope is the relocation and upgrading of all science classrooms to the "C" wing which will include adding water and gas utilities, lighting, and hardware.

### **Fiscal Implications:**

The estimated cost for this project is \$1,149,300 and will be funded from 2018 school bond proceeds.

### **Recommendation:**

Approve the repair and renovation of the "C" wing of Highland Tech to better support teaching and learning.

### **Policy Implications:**

Policy Code 9200 – Care and Maintenance of Facilities

### **Strategic Goal Alignment:**

Other: Policy or Gen Statute. See above.

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

**Department:** Auxiliary Services

## **Agenda Item**

**Meeting Date:** 3/15/2021

**Agenda Item Title/Topic:** Hunter Huss Auditorium Renovation

**Type of Item:** ☒ **Consent**      ☒ **Action**      ☐ **Information**

**Main Points:**

The stage lighting at Hunter Huss High School is beyond repair and needs to be replaced. The scope of work involves replacing the existing lighting console with a modern technical lighting system and fixtures. The scope will also include electrical upgrades needed for lighting systems and a projection system.

**Fiscal Implications:**

The estimated cost for this project is \$172,000. Funding will come from the 2018 school bonds.

**Recommendation:**

Authorization to upgrade and replace lighting and electrical service in the auditorium at Hunter Huss auditorium.

**Policy Implications:**

Policy Code 9200 – Care and Maintenance of Facilities

**Strategic Goal Alignment:**

Other: Policy or Gen Statute. See above.

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

**Department:** Auxiliary Services

## **Agenda Item**

**Meeting Date:** 3/15/2021

**Agenda Item Title/Topic:** Southwest Middle School Elevator Update

**Type of Item:** ☒ **Consent**      ☒ **Action**      ☐ **Information**

### **Main Points:**

Southwest Middle School's elevator needs to be updated due to its age and difficulty in finding replacement parts to keep the elevator operational. A reliable and operational elevator is important to the overall safety and efficient operation of a multi-story school. The update to the elevator was put out to bid. We received bids from two vendors and another vendor responded that they could not submit a bid since they would not be able to complete the project prior to the start of school in August 2021. The lowest bid was provided by Carolina Elevator Service Inc.

### **Fiscal Implications:**

The lowest bid provided for this project is \$123,876. Funding will come from the 2018 school bonds.

### **Recommendation:**

Approve the low bid and authorize staff to modify the elevator at Southwest Middle School.

### **Policy Implications:**

Policy Code: 9200 Care and Maintenance of Facilities

### **Strategic Goal Alignment:**

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

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

**Department:** Auxiliary Services

## **Agenda Item**

**Meeting Date:** 3/15/2021

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

**Type of Item:** ☒ Consent      ☒ Action      ☐ Information

### **Main Points:**

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

### **Fiscal Implications:**

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

### **Recommendation:**

Approval

### **Policy Implications:**

Board Policy 8640

### **Strategic Goal Alignment:**

Other: Policy or Gen Statute. See above.

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

**Department:** Finance and Operations

## Agenda Item

**Meeting Date:** 3/15/2021

**Agenda Item Title/Topic:** School Nurses Contract Update  
BrightStar Care, Maxim, The Stepping Stones Group

**Type of Item:** ☒ Consent      ☒ Action      ☐ Information

**Main Points:**

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, GCS completed the Request for Proposal process to select appropriately licensed, local, and endorsed providers for 30 registered nurse (RNs) positions that will be assigned to schools.

At the completion of this process, a full-time nurse will be assigned to all schools which will meet the acute needs of students and manage our comprehensive medical care program. Nurses are an integral part of education who work to reduce and eliminate health-related barriers to the educational process for students and staff. These employees will work 37.5 hours per week during the regular school day. The selected agencies were BrightStar Care, Maxim, and The Stepping Stones Group.

Agency	Requested Position	Rate per hour
The Stepping Stones Group	RN	\$45 hourly
Maxim	RN	\$48 hourly
BrightStar Care	RN	\$48 hourly

**Fiscal Implications:**

\$2,200,000

Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund 1 (ESSER 1) will be used to pay for this expense.

**Recommendation:**

Award contracts to the agencies as designated above.

**Policy Implications:**

N/A

**Strategic Goal Alignment:**

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

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

Last Name	First Name	Category	School
Arnott	Nora	Retirement	Webb Street School - 394
Barrett	Wendy	Transfer	Brookside Elementary School - 340
Baucom	Jason	Resignation	Cramerton Middle School - 380
Beam	Wendy	Retirement	Cherryville Elementary School - 364
Beltran	Stephanie	Interim to Permanent	Grier Middle School - 408
Benfield	Charles	Retirement	Facilities - 004
Bingham	Brittany	New Hire	Bessemer City High School - 336
Blalock	Brantley	Demotion	Bessemer City Middle School - 436
Bradley	Robin	Retirement	North Gaston High School - 470
Brooks	Hayley	New Hire	Brookside Elementary School - 340
Brown	Christen	New Hire	Belmont Central Elementary School - 320
Byrd	Lisa	Resignation	Brookside Elementary School - 340
Capehart	Carol	Retirement	Department for Exceptional Children - 004
Cohen	Alexandra	Resignation	Robinson Elementary School - 488
Coleman	Demenia	Promotion	Forestview High School - 396
Crawford	Barbara	Demotion, Promotion	School Nutrition - 007, Stanley Middle School - 324
Crawford	Kathleen	Promotion	Business Services/Finance - 002
Delaney	Anita	Retirement	Belmont Central Elementary School - 320
Delk	Caitlin	Resignation	Tryon Elementary School - 504
Dilling	Krista	Interim to Permanent	Costner Elementary School - 376
Dunn Thacker	Lisa	New Hire	Department for Exceptional Children - 004
Emory	Dawn	Retirement	Tryon Elementary School - 504
Forgan	Elizabeth	New Hire	Lowell Elementary School - 440
Fortenberry	Arlie	Resignation	Department for Exceptional Children - 004
Gray	Elizabeth	Retirement	Belmont Middle School - 324
Green	Denitra	Resignation	Grier Middle School - 408
Grenier	Coleen	Retirement	York Chester Middle School - 526
Hall	Daniel	Resignation	Chapel Grove Elementary School - 352
Harris	Chris	Demotion	Lingerfeldt Elementary School - 438
Harris	Sandra	New Hire	Tryon Elementary School - 504
Hedden	Patricia	Retirement	Brookside Elementary School - 340
Holder	Jennifer	Retirement	Catawba Heights Elementary School - 348
Hopkins	Na' Shara	New Hire	Hershal H. Beam Elementary School - 492
Humphries	Shirley	Demotion	School Nutrition - 007
James	Jill	New Hire	Hershal H. Beam Elementary School - 492
Johnson	Courtney	New Hire	Academic Services - 021
Johnston	James	Resignation	South Point High School - 494
Kane	Mary	Retirement	Belmont Central Elementary School - 320
Kendrick	Mariah	New Hire	Pleasant Ridge Elementary School - 480
Lang	Rose	Resignation	East Gaston High School - 390
Lanning	Lauren	Interim to Permanent	Costner Elementary School - 376
Lee	Tanya	Resignation	Chapel Grove Elementary School - 352
Lindsay	Dekwalon	Transfer	Warlick Academy - 372
Little	Ashley	Resignation	Chapel Grove Elementary School - 352
Lowery II	Glendon	New Hire	Facilities - 004
Lynn	Miranda	New Hire	Bessemer City Central School - 332
Malhotra	Sanjana	New Hire	Woodhill Elementary School - 520
Marksberry	Lori	Retirement	Costner Elementary School - 376
McCain	Yvonne	Resignation	Southwest Middle School - 498
McGill	Bianca	New Hire	Hershal H. Beam Elementary School - 492

Last Name	First Name	Category	School
McSwain	Tammie	Retirement	Carr Elementary School - 344
Miller	Ashley	New Hire	Warlick Academy - 372
Moore	Linda	Retirement	Lowell Elementary School - 440
Nixon	Diane	Retirement	Hunter Huss High School - 428
Patrick	Charity	Resignation	Forestview High School - 396
Patterson	Angela	Promotion	School Nutrition - 007
Poison	Ashley	New Hire	Hershal H. Beam Elementary School - 492
Postell II	James	Interim to Permanent	East Gaston High School - 390
Poston	Natalie	Resignation	John Chavis Middle School - 431
Queen	Linsey	Transfer	North Gaston High School - 470
Roseberry	Craig	New Hire	W.C. Friday Middle School - 514
Ruff	Clayvon	Resignation Due to Health/Disability	Ashbrook High School - 310
Schwendner	Miette	New Hire	Pinewood Elementary School - 478
Scruggs	Matthew	Interim to Permanent	Grier Middle School - 408
Short	Jonathon	New Hire	W.C. Friday Middle School - 514
Smith	Deborah	Retirement	Robinson Elementary School - 488
Smith	Dustin	Resignation	North Belmont Elementary School - 468
Spencer	Jamie	Termination	Ashbrook High School - 310
Stewart	Alan	Retirement	Forestview High School - 396
Sujak	Ivona	New Hire	John Chavis Middle School - 431
Sumner	Mary	New Hire	Academic Services - 021
Walls	Destiny	New Hire	School Nutrition - 007
Waters	Helen	Promotion	Sherwood Elementary School - 490
Watson	James	New Hire	Lowell Elementary School - 440
West	Jason	New Hire	Warlick Academy - 372
Wiggins	Lillian	Transfer	Chapel Grove Elementary School - 352
Withers	Selene	New Hire	North Belmont Elementary School - 468
Yager	Pamela	New Hire	Transportation - 009