

GASTON COUNTY
BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR SESSION



Shaping Our Future

943 Osceola Street, Gastonia, NC 28054
October 18, 2021
5:30 p.m.

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 10/18/2021

Agenda Item Title/Topic: Agenda Adoption

Type of Item: ☐ Consent ☒ Action ☐ Information

Main Points:

Consideration of Formal Agenda for Monday, October 18, 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, October 18, 2021

5:30 p.m.

Agenda

Regular Meeting

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XXI. Superintendent’s Comments

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

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

In order to consult with the Board’s attorney and protect the attorney
client privilege, and to receive advice with respect to the lawsuit captioned

—19-CVS-3893 McKinney et al. vs. Goins and The Gaston County Board of
Education

—20-CVS-3924 Gaston County Board of Education vs. Shelco, et al.

—3:20-CV-00228-RJC-DSC Scott vs. The Gaston County Board of Education
et al. and

—Any other legal matters.

XXIII. Adjournment

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 10/18/2021

Agenda Item Title/Topic: Good News

Type of Item: ☐ Consent ☐ Action ☒ Information

Main Points:

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

Fiscal Implications:

None

Recommendation:

None

Policy Implications:

None

Strategic Goal Alignment:

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

Submitted by: Todd Hagans, Chief Communications Officer

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

BOARD AGENDA INFORMATIONAL ITEM

DEPARTMENT: Communications/Public
Information Department

TOPIC: GOOD NEWS

FOR THE MONTH OF: October 2021

1. Representatives from **Gaston County Schools** and Gaston College came together on September 28 for a ribbon-cutting ceremony and open house for the **Gaston Early College of Medical Sciences**. They joined with partner organizations Belmont Abbey College and CaroMont Health to celebrate the opening of the county's newest high school that features a healthcare focus.
2. **Gaston County Schools** received a \$2,000 grant from the Gaston Community Foundation. The funds will be used by school social workers to assist with their efforts to support students.
3. Four students were honored as the "Do the Right Thing" award winners for October: **Bill Glover, Tryon Elementary; Savana Royston, Robinson Elementary; Samantha Munoz-Hernandez, Cramerton Middle; and Kalib Smith, South Point High School**. Sponsored by **Gaston County Schools** and The Gaston Gazette, the program recognizes students for "doing the right thing" and exhibiting character education traits such as responsibility, generosity, caring, perseverance, respect, and cooperation.
4. Students at **W.B. Beam Intermediate** had the opportunity to participate in the Charlotte Hornets Book Bus experience. The students toured the bus and were able to select a book to take home with them.
5. **W.A. Bess Elementary, Pinewood Elementary, and Rankin Elementary** were recognized by ArtsNC during the Arts in Education Week observance. The three schools are the only ones in Gaston County to earn the North Carolina A+ School distinction for efforts to infuse or add the arts across the curriculum.
6. Fourteen teachers were chosen for **Gaston County Schools'** new partnership with Gardner-Webb University that will help develop the next generation of school leaders. The teachers will be involved in a 20-month program of study that leads to obtaining a master's degree in school administration.
7. **W.A. Bess Elementary** hosted the NED's Mindset Mission program, which is a live streaming event that makes it possible for students to enjoy an interactive educational journey filled with storytelling, illusions, yo-yo tricks, and humor.
8. A select group of **Bessemer City High School** choral students had the opportunity to attend "The Little Mermaid" production at the Gaston School of Arts.

9. **Bessemer City Central Elementary** teacher **April Bridges** was recognized by Curriculum Associates for outstanding use of the iReady online program. During the 2020-2021 year, her students achieved more than a year's worth of academic growth and were proficient in reading by the end of the year.
10. **Brookside Elementary** third grade student **Josie Norris** had her poem titled "Snow" published in the Young American Poetry Digest.
11. **Carr Elementary** teacher **Zachery Splawn** was selected as a FSI Office/Carolina Panthers Top 10 Teacher of the Week.
12. **Cherryville Elementary** received a \$625 community donation that allowed every student in the school to purchase one book during the school's virtual book fair.
13. The **Stuart W. Cramer High School** marching band competed in the Jaguar Classic at **Forestview High School** and received the following recognition: first place color guard, first place drum major, and first place overall in the Class 2A division.
14. **Stuart W. Cramer High School** sophomore **Rich Wills** earned the Mike Taylor Low Junior Award at the Gaston County amateur golf tournament. Wills placed in the top 10 with a three-day total of 220.
15. **W.C. Friday Middle School** celebrated its 50th birthday on September 27. Each student received a birthday cupcake, and students and staff celebrated the school's golden anniversary with various activities during spirit week.
16. **Forestview High School** student **Keana Abrams** was selected to serve as an athletic training student aid for the Shrine Bowl of the Carolinas game. She is the third student from Forestview to be selected for the honor. Although there will not be a Shrine Bowl game this year because of the pandemic, she is being recognized on the Shrine Bowl website and social media channels.
17. **Gaston Early College High School** held a canned food drive and collected approximately 800 items, which were donated to the United Way of Gaston County.
18. **Gaston Early College High School** senior **Nathan Vasquez** was selected to serve as the 2021-2022 president of the North Carolina Comprehensive Community College Student Government Association. As president, he will act as a student representative on the North Carolina Board of Community Colleges.
19. **Gaston Early College High School** students wrote positive notes of encouragement for the staff at **Carr Elementary School**.
20. **Rankin Elementary** third grade student **Brenton Clark** was featured in a Discovery Education "Hands on STEM" special. He was included in a four-minute video segment with a Microsoft program manager and was able to ask several questions.

21. **North Gaston High School** teacher **Milton Villarroel Navajas** was selected to present during the International Observe the Moon Night program, which is an annual event to observe and be inspired by the earth's natural satellite. His two presentations focused on Inca cosmology and myths about the moon.
22. **North Gaston High School's** marching band received the following awards at the Maiden Blue Devil Tournament of Bands: second place music, second place marching, second place general effect, first place color guard, second place percussion, and second place drum major. In addition, **Rhiannon Eason, Peyton Davis, David Trujillo-Gomez, Jasmin Umanzor, and Ben Jordan** won best soloist awards. At the Jaguar Classic at **Forestview High School**, the band received the following awards: third place music, second place marching, third place general effect, third place percussion, first place color guard, and third place overall in Class 1A.
23. **North Gaston High School** is the only school in North Carolina to be recognized as a member of the United Nations Global Schools Program. **Milton Villarroel Navajas**, the school's foreign language department chairman, was instrumental in helping the school earn the honor.
24. **McAdenville Elementary** received a new spirit rock, which was donated to the school by John E. Jenkins Grading and Paving Company.
25. **Stanley Middle School** received a donation of 24 buckets of dowel rods from Lowe's Home Improvement for use by the percussion STEAM club. In addition, Keter donated five large storage cabinets for the school's makerspace.
26. The **South Point High School** marching band received the following awards during the Jaguar Classic competition at **Forestview High School**: first place music with an excellent rating, first place marching with an excellent rating, first place general effect with an excellent rating, first place percussion with an excellent rating, first place drum major with a superior rating, second place color guard with a good rating, first place band in Class 1A with an excellent rating, and grand champion silver division (Class 1A and Class 2A). In addition, the marching band participated in the Hickory Ridge Festival of Bands competition and received the following awards: second place music with a superior rating, second place general effect with an excellent rating, second place visual performance with an excellent rating, second place percussion with an excellent rating, first place color guard with an excellent rating, second place drum major with a superior rating, second place band with an overall excellent rating, and second place Division 1 (Class 1A and Class 2A).
27. **Webb Street School** students in **Susie Rutherford's** class are in charge of operating and running the "One Can Make a Difference" food pantry. Orders are placed through a Google form, which is used by students as a shopping guide to sort and package each order. **Ashbrook High School** student **Eli Poulsen** completed the installation of the pantry as part of his Eagle Scout project.

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 10/18/2021

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: 10/18/2021

Agenda Item Title/Topic: Approval/Correction of Minutes

Type of Item: ☐ Consent ☒ Action ☐ Information

Main Points:

Approval of Minutes of:
September 20, 2021

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

Fiscal Implications:

None

Recommendation:

None

Policy Implications:

Validation of Board Proceedings.

Strategic Goal Alignment:

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

Submitted by: Dr. W. Jeffrey Booker

Department: Superintendent

**Gaston County Schools
Board of Education
Monday, September 20, 2021
Meeting 5:30 p.m.**

MINUTES

The Gaston County Board of Education met in a regular session on Monday, September 20, 2021 in the Board Room, 943 Osceola Street, Gastonia, NC. Additionally, 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, Steve Hall, Lee Dedmon, Dot Guthrie, Robbie Lovelace and Brent Moore.

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

Chairman Ramsey called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m. and welcomed everyone.

Invocation

Superintendent Booker led the invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance

Superintendent Booker led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Agenda Adoption - Action

The Board considered Agenda Adoption – Action

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

Good News – Information

Superintendent Booker congratulated two high school seniors who have been chosen as semifinalists in the prestigious National Merit Scholarship Program. Gwen Campau of Stuart W. Cramer High School and Travis Rainwater of Highland School of Technology are among 16,000 students who were named National Merit semifinalists. Next spring, the National Merit program will award 7,600 scholarships valued at more than \$30 million to students across the country.

Superintendent Booker congratulated five high schools that are being honored by North Carolina High School Athletic Association for being ejection-free and displaying outstanding sportsmanship for an entire sports season without having a student or coach ejected from a game. Our winners for the 2020-2021 sports season are: Bessemer City High School, East Gaston High School, Forestview High School, Highland School of Technology and South Point High School.

Superintendent Booker congratulated three recent graduates of Cherryville High School – Public Service Academy. Jessica Johansen, Trae Costner and Ashlyn Beattie graduated from Cherryville in May and quickly began jobs as emergency medical technicians with Gaston Emergency Medical Services. The three students completed the EMT course of study, which is part of the Public Service Academy at Cherryville High School.

Superintendent Booker congratulated the 14 teachers who were chosen for the Superintendent's Leadership Academy. We are partnering with Gardner-Webb University to develop a cohort of teachers from Gaston County Schools who have demonstrated promise in the education field and expressed an interest in furthering their career as a school administrator. Together as a group, the teachers will complete the coursework over a 20-month period for a master's degree in school administration.

Public Expression – Information

Chairman Ramsey entertained the motion to extend the time period of public expression, for tonight's meeting, from 30 minutes to 60 minutes.

Motion

The Motion was made by Mrs. Robbie Lovelace; seconded by Ms. Dot Cherry that the Board
Extend the time of public expression from 30 minutes to 60 minutes for tonight's meeting

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

Crystal Bowe
225 Cramerton Mills Parkway
Cramerton, NC 28032
RE: Masking in schools

Shawna Czerwinsky
109 James Drive
Belmont, NC 28012
RE: Remove Mask Mandate

Aaron Jordan
441 Neal Road
Bessemer City, NC 28016
RE: Mask Policy

Monica Powell-Cupid
3515 Canyon Live Oak Court
Gastonia, NC 28056
RE: Masking in schools
Although Ms. Powell-Cupid completed the Request to Speak Form, she did not appear at the meeting.

Rebecca LaClaire
6478 Kemp Street
Charlotte, NC 28213
RE: Retire the Red Raider Mascot
Although Ms. LaClaire completed the Request to Speak Form, she did not appear at the meeting.

Hayley Brezeale
417 Bushmill Drive
Rock Hill, SC 29730
RE: Retire the Red Raider Mascot

Ava Clarkson
114 Leeper Avenue
Belmont, NC 28012
RE: Retire the Red Raider Mascot

Jasmine Clarkson
114 Leeper Avenue
Belmont, NC 28012
RE: Retire the Red Raider Mascot

Dana Frady
1227 Perfection Avenue
Belmont, NC 28012
RE: Retire the Red Raider Mascot

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

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

Lisa Rebaglia
9414 Maltese Drive
Gastonia, NC 28056
RE: Mask Mandate

Lori Peabody
2406 Emily Drive
Belmont, NC 28012
RE: Mask Mandate

Kelli Solly
120 Watson Street
Belmont, NC 28012
RE: Extend Mask Mandate

Amanda Memrick
104 Timber Ridge Road
Belmont, NC 28012
RE: Extend Mask Mandate

Betsy Dellinger
300 Carolina Drive
Cherryville, NC 28021
RE: Contact Tracing

Karen Turner
158 Davis Road
Bessemer City, NC 28016
RE: Extend Mask Mandate

Lucas Buchanan
3424 Windstone Lane
Gastonia, NC 28056
RE: Mask Mandate vs. Optional

Amanda Placie-West
Gastonia, NC
RE: Mask Mandate

Dr. Andrew Herman
1000 Blythe Blvd.
Charlotte, NC 28203
RE: Mask Mandate

Rick Gass
124 Briarwood Lane
Mt. Holly, NC 28120

Katie McCurry
168 Morgans Branch Road
Belmont, NC 28012
RE: Mask Mandate

Chase Fuller
732 Climbing Rose Court
Gastonia, NC 28056
RE: Extend Mask Mandate
The time limit of one hour for public expression was reached.

Approval/Correction of Minutes

The Board considered Approval/Correction of Minutes – Action

Motion to adopt minutes of August 16, 2021 as presented was made by Mr. Brent Moore; seconded by Mrs. Dot Guthrie; motion carried unanimously. (9-0)

COVID-19 Update – Information

Chairman Ramsey recognized Superintendent Booker who took this opportunity to report that the first official month of school has been completed. Students and teachers are on task, engaged in activities and teaching and learning is taking place. It has been a long year and half for all of us, but our people are showing up. They are going above expectations to mitigate the effects of COVID-19. They are putting in a hard day's work each and every day, and they are pressing on despite the obstacles they face. Superintendent Booker thanked employees for giving us a solid month of school, and let employees know how much their efforts are appreciated. In recognition of this effort, Superintendent Booker made a recommendation to the Board that Friday, October 8 and Wednesday, November 24, which are both currently Optional Teacher Workdays, be modify and become remote work days. We would designate those two dates for our employees to work from home and be available to school officials by phone if needed.

Superintendent Booker introduced Mr. Steve Eaton, Public Health Director Gaston County Department of Health & Human Services. Mr. Eaton presented a PowerPoint on COVID-19 Update.

Action on Whether to Maintain or Amend the Board's Current Face Covering Policy as Required by S.L. 2021-130 – Action

Motion

The Motion was made by Mr. Lee Dedmon; seconded by Mrs. Dot Guthrie that the Board
Approve that masks will be required for everyone entering all buildings and including buses. Masks will be optional on athletic fields and outside areas.

Discussion occurred.

A vote was taken and motion to approve the item as presented carried. (6-3)
(Mr. Justin Davis, Mr. Steve Hall and Mr. Brent Moore opposed)

(View PowerPoint)

Curriculum & Instruction Committee Report – Information

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

(View report)

Motion

The Motion was made by Mrs. Robbie Lovelace; seconded by Mr. Steve Hall that the Board
Designate Friday, October 8 and Wednesday, November 24, 2021 as remote workdays for all Gaston County Schools employees.

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

Operations Committee Report – Information

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

(View report)

Gaston County Schools Testing Center – Information

Chairman Ramsey recognized Mrs. Jill Payne who presented a PowerPoint on Gaston County Schools Testing Center.

Discussion occurred.

(View PowerPoint)

Budget Update 2021-2022 – Information

Chairman Ramsey recognized Mr. Gary Hoskins who gave a budget update for 2021-2022. FY 2020-2021 ended on June 30, 2021, without the approval of a comprehensive State budget for the new fiscal year. As a result, the State is using recurring funding from the 2018-2019 State budget along with a series of “mini” budgets that were passed as funding for the year. The absence of a State budget for 2021-2022 will continue to provide financial uncertainty for our District and the State. The General Assembly is currently working through various committees to develop a comprehensive State budget for 2021-2022.

Local Assessment Schedule 2021-2022 – Information

Chairman Ramsey recognized Mrs. Rebekka Powers and Mr. Michael Foust. Mr. Foust presented information on the local assessment calendar.

(View Assessment Calendar)

NC Accountability Model Results – Information

Chairman Ramsey recognized Mrs. Rebekka Powers who presented a PowerPoint on NC Accountability Model Preliminary Results.

(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. Resolution to Declare Old Belmont Middle School Surplus
- E. Contracts
 - Purchase Student Chromebooks
 - Purchase Teacher Chromebooks
 - Purchase of Heavy Duty Commercial Dehumidifiers
 - DRIVE Education System
 - Nurses Contract — Addendum

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

Superintendent's Comments

Superintendent Booker recognized "the ladies in red" — Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Mrs. Lillian Williams and others who were in attendance at tonight's meeting and thanked them for their support of education.

Superintendent Booker thanked our school administrators for their attention to safety and security throughout the year and our school resource officers and law enforcement partners for their attention and commitment to school safety in Gaston County. Last week we had messages and information circulating on social media that was unfounded. We all know that spreading rumors on social media disrupts the school environment and takes the focus away from the classroom, academics and teaching and learning. It is important to reiterate that we take social media messages seriously and we make sure they are investigated. We want to assure our Board and our parents as well that we take school safety seriously; we will let you know when there is a serious issue; and we will continue to do all that we can to provide a safe school environment for our students and employees.

Superintendent Booker reminded Board Members that the North Carolina School Boards Association will hold its annual conference (in person) on November 11-13 in Greensboro. Please notify Mrs. Luoto if you are interested in attending.

Superintendent Booker announced that Tuesday, September 28 is the ribbon cutting and open house celebration for the new Gaston Early College of Medical Sciences. The event is at 2:00 p.m. outside of the Comer Engineering Technologies building on the Gaston College campus in Dallas.

Superintendent Booker reminded parents the fall semester virtual Parent-Teacher Conference Day is Thursday, October 7. Parents should contact their child's school to schedule a conference. Friday, October 8 will be a remote workday which means no school for students.

Superintendent Booker reported there was not a need for Closed Session.

Chairman Ramsey wished Mr. Lee Dedmon a "Happy Birthday."

Closed Session

Closed Session was not needed.

Adjournment

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

The Board Meeting adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

Approved:

Jeff K. Ramsey, Chairman
[Corporate Seal]

W. Jeffrey Booker, Secretary

Date Approved: _____

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 10/18/2021

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: 10/18/2021

Agenda Item Title/Topic: Action on Whether to Maintain or Amend the Board's Current Face Covering Policy as Required by S.L. 2021-130

Type of Item: ☐ Consent ☒ Action ☐ Information

Main Points:

On August 30, 2021, Governor Cooper signed Session Law 2021-130 (Senate Bill 654). Called "An Act to Provide Relief to Public Schools in Response to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic," the law aims to address concerns in school systems related to the ongoing pandemic.

In accordance with the law, the Board of Education will vote at least once a month during the 2021-2022 academic year on whether the face covering policy should be modified.

On August 16, 2021, the Gaston County Board of Education voted to require face coverings (masks) for everyone (students, staff, parents, and visitors) inside all Gaston County Schools facilities and buses regardless of vaccination status. The action was approved and implemented immediately.

Fiscal Implications:

N/A

Recommendation:

Continue supporting Health Services' management of COVID-19 responsibilities and consider information regarding COVID-19's current impact on Gaston County Schools and the community.

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's Office

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 10/18/2021

Agenda Item Title/Topic: Gaston County Schools Testing Center

Type of Item: ☐ Consent ☒ Action ☐ Information

Main Points:

Gaston County Schools, in collaboration with North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS), will open a voluntary COVID-19 testing center for employees and students.

The testing center opens October 18, 2021.

This item was presented to the Board of Education for information on September 20, 2021.

Fiscal Implications:

Fiscal Year 2021-2022: Utilize NCDHHS funding to support the testing center.

Recommendation:

Authorization to participate in a Test to Stay study with ABC Collaborative. Expand the voluntary COVID-19 Testing Center to include feeder testing sites for Gaston County Schools employees and students.

Policy Implications:

N/A

Strategic Goal Alignment:

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

Submitted by: Jill S. Payne,

Department: Academic Services
Executive Director of Student Support Services

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 10/18/2021

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: 10/18/2021

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: 10/18/2021

Agenda Item Title/Topic: National Principals Month Proclamation

Type of Item: ☐ Consent ☒ Action ☐ Information

Main Points:

October is National Principals Month. The annual observance is sponsored by the National Association of Elementary School Principals and the National Association of Secondary School Principals in partnership with other education organizations.

See the attached proclamation for consideration and approval.

Fiscal Implications:

None

Recommendation:

To approve the proclamation as an expression of recognition and appreciation for our principals, assistant principals, and other school administrators.

Policy Implications:

None

Strategic Goal Alignment:

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

Submitted by: Todd Hagans, Chief Communications Officer

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

PRIDE



PROCLAMATION

National Principals Month

WHEREAS, October is designated “National Principals Month” in recognition of principals, assistant principals, and all school administrators for their outstanding leadership and significant influence on the success of every student; and

WHEREAS, in addition to establishing high academic expectations and managing day-to-day operations, school administrators are responsible for collaborating with students, teachers, parents, and community leaders to provide a safe, inclusive, and caring school environment where the shared belief that public education is the cornerstone of our democracy is paramount; and

WHEREAS, while faced with unprecedented challenges as a result of COVID-19, school administrators have shown great tenacity and resilience to support teachers, students, parents, and others while ensuring that quality teaching and learning continues even during an ongoing pandemic; and

WHEREAS, we are proud of our administrators in Gaston County Schools, and we appreciate their dedication and willingness “to inspire success and a lifetime of learning” every day.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Gaston County Board of Education is pleased to join other Boards of Education across the United States in proclaiming October 2021 as

National Principals Month

and encourages the citizens of Gaston County to recognize and thank all school administrators for their many efforts to guarantee excellence in education in our community.

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

Jeffrey K. Ramsey, Chairman
Gaston County Board of Education

W. Jeffrey Booker, Superintendent
Gaston County Schools

Gaston
COUNTY SCHOOLS

shaping our future

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 10/18/2021

Agenda Item Title/Topic: Beginning Teacher Support Program (BTSP) Plan

Type of Item: ☐ Consent ☒ Action ☐ Information

Main Points:

State Board Policy requires each LEA to develop a Beginning Teacher Support Program (BTSP) Plan and to provide a comprehensive program for beginning teachers. The BTSP Plan is aligned to the standards and provides a conceptual framework of support for beginning teachers.

Fiscal Implications:

N/A

Recommendation:

Approval of Plan.

Policy Implications:

GCS will be in compliance with State Board Policy TCED-016.

Strategic Goal Alignment:

Other: Policy or Gen Statute. See above.

Submitted by: Joey Clinton

Department: Human Resources

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 10/18/2021

Agenda Item Title/Topic: School Improvement Plans (SIP) for Low Performing Schools (LPS)

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

Main Points:

The Strategic Plan, Vision, Mission, Goals and Beliefs of Gaston County Schools (GCS) has been shared with all GCS stakeholders in a variety of ways. School Administrators and School Improvement Teams (SIT) were provided with professional development to help develop individual SIP for each school. SIT members were elected.

GCS has 11 Low Performing Schools – Bessemer City Central, Brookside, Ed Sadler, H.H. Beam, Lingerfeldt, Pleasant Ridge, Sherwood, Woodhill, Grier Middle, York Chester Middle, and Bessemer City High.

The state requires these schools to utilize NCStar for their SIP. They were provided 12 key indicators that the SIT team was to assess and develop action steps to implement each indicator.

Fiscal Implications:

None

Recommendation:

Approval of School Improvement Plans for Low Performing Schools.

Policy Implications:

None

Strategic Goal Alignment:

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

Submitted by: Rebekka Powers, Chief Accountability Officer

Department: Accountability

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 10/18/2021

Agenda Item Title/Topic: High School Exam Schedules - Fall 2021-2022
Traditional High Schools and Gaston Early Colleges

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 for all courses. The NCDPI Accountability Department requires that exams be taken during the last five days of the semester. The exam schedule covers the administration of state End of Course tests, Career and Technical Education exams and teacher made exams. The Early Colleges semester ends on December 17, while the traditional high schools semester ends December 21. Therefore, the two types of schools will have slightly different exam schedules.

Early Colleges schedule: December 14-17 (no make-up day)

Traditional High School schedule: December 15 - 21 (December 21st 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

Gaston County Schools - Fall Semester – 2021-2022

Final Exam Schedule

(Traditional High Schools)

Time	Wednesday December 15, 2021	Thursday December 16, 2021	Friday December 17, 2021	Monday December 20, 2021	Tuesday December 21, 2021
8:30 – 12:00	1 st period EOC, CTE and teacher made exams	2 nd period EOC, CTE and teacher made exams	3 rd period EOC, CTE and teacher made exams	4 th period EOC, CTE and teacher made exams	Make-up EOC, CTE and teacher made exams
12:00 – 1:00	Continuation of <i>Ample time EOC sessions</i> Bag Lunch & Dismiss	Continuation of <i>Ample time EOC sessions</i> Bag Lunch & Dismiss	Continuation of <i>Ample time EOC sessions</i> Bag Lunch & Dismiss	Continuation of <i>Ample time EOC sessions</i> Bag Lunch & Dismiss	Bag Lunch & Dismiss Make-up EOC, CTE and teacher made exams
1:00 – Regular Dismissal Time *All times are approximations	Make-up EOC, CTE and teacher made exams	Make-up EOC, CTE and teacher made exams	Make-up EOC, CTE and teacher made exams	Make-up EOC, CTE and teacher made exams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make-up EOC, CTE and teacher made exams • Teachers finalize grades, close out semester

Schools may not begin any exam administrations prior to the start of the exam schedule as printed above.

EXAM REVIEW PROCEDURES: All EOC and CTE EOC teachers must provide Principals with a copy of their exam review material by December 3, 2021. Only material submitted to the Principal prior to the start of exams will be allowed to be used during the review session.

SPECIAL NOTES:

- Revise the times above to fit your school bell/class period schedule. Exam periods must be a minimum of 196 minutes for EOC's and 120 minutes for CTE EOC's.
- For students who ride a bus and who must do make up testing your lead driver or business manager should work with the students and drivers to determine bus transportation home.
- Alert feeder schools of dismissal times.
- Students who are in school for the exam period are to be counted present.
- Each teacher is expected to keep accurate student attendance records by class period for all exam days.

The following procedures are provided to guide the successful administration of high school final exams. They are in addition to the standard testing procedures provided by NCDPI, GCS Testing Office, and other applicable rules and procedures.

1. All subjects must administer a final exam, unless an exception is authorized by the Testing Department of GCS and/or the office of the Executive Director of High Schools.
2. All final exams must be administered during the approved time period provided by GCS. By NC law that is the final five days of each semester.
3. Teacher made final exams must be cumulative in nature. Specifically, a teacher made final exam must cover the entire curriculum, as opposed to a "quiz-type" exam. However, there are no specific requirements regarding minimum length. As a practice, all teacher made exams should be provided to the Principal prior to the first day of exams. This allows for review and adjustment, if necessary, to meet these requirements and expectations.
4. Performance-based courses may include a performance element as part, but not all, of the final exam grade.
5. Exceptions to these procedures must be approved by at least the School Principal and GCS Executive Director of High Schools.

Gaston County Schools - Fall Semester – 2021-2022

Final Exam Schedule

(Early College High Schools)

Time	Tuesday December 14, 2021	Wednesday December 15, 2021	Thursday December 16, 2021	Friday December 17, 2021
9:00 – 12:00	1 st period* EOC and teacher made exams	2 nd period* EOC and teacher made exams	3 rd period* EOC and teacher made exams	4 th period* EOC and teacher made exams
12:00 – 1:00	Continuation of <i>Ample time</i> EOC sessions Bag Lunch & Dismiss	Continuation of <i>Ample time</i> EOC sessions Bag Lunch & Dismiss	Continuation of <i>Ample time</i> EOC sessions Bag Lunch & Dismiss	Continuation of <i>Ample time</i> EOC sessions Bag Lunch & Dismiss
1:00 – Regular Dismissal Time *All times are approximations	Make-up EOC and teacher made exams	Make-up EOC and teacher made exams	Make-up EOC and teacher made exams	Make-up EOC and teacher made exams

*Period subject to change based on Early College schedule

Schools may not begin any exam administrations prior to the start of the exam schedule as printed above.

EXAM REVIEW PROCEDURES: All EOC teachers must provide Principals with a copy of their exam review material by December 3, 2021. Only material submitted to the Principal prior to the start of exams will be allowed to be used during the review session.

SPECIAL NOTES:

- Revise the times above to fit your school bell/class period schedule. **Exam periods must be a minimum of 196 minutes for EOC's.**
- For students who ride a bus and who must do make-up testing, your lead driver or business manager should work with the students and drivers to determine bus transportation home.
- Students who are in school for the exam period are to be counted present.
- Each teacher is expected to keep accurate student attendance records by class period for all exam days.

The following procedures are provided to guide the successful administration of high school final exams. They are in addition to the standard testing procedures provided by NCDPI, GCS Testing Office, and other applicable rules and procedures.

1. All subjects must administer a final exam, unless an exception is authorized by the Testing Department of GCS and/or the office of the Executive Director of High Schools.
2. All final exams must be administered during the approved time period provided by GCS. By NC law that is the final five days of each semester.
3. Teacher-made final exams must be cumulative in nature. Specifically, a teacher-made final exam must cover the entire curriculum, as opposed to a "quiz-type" exam. However, there are no specific requirements regarding minimum length. As a practice, all teacher-made exams should be provided to the Principal prior to the first day of exams. This allows for review and adjustment, if necessary, to meet these requirements and expectations.
4. Performance-based courses may include a performance element as part, but not all, of the final exam grade.
5. Exceptions to these procedures must be approved by at least the School Principal and GCS Executive Director of High Schools.

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 10/18/2021

Agenda Item Title/Topic: Gaston County Schools
Business Advisory Council Update

Type of Item: ☐ Consent ☐ Action ☒ Information

Main Points:

General Statute 115C-170 requires local boards of education to be assisted by a Business Advisory Council in the performance of its duties to provide Career and Technical Education instruction, activities, and services.

A brief summary will be provided for the Business Advisory Council meeting that was held on September 22, 2021. The meeting was offered virtually and in person at the GCS Central Office boardroom.

Fiscal Implications:

N/A

Recommendation:

N/A

Policy Implications:

GS 115C-170 - Business Advisory Councils

Strategic Goal Alignment:

Other: Policy or Gen Statute. See above.

Submitted by: Brett Buchanan,
Director of Career and Technical Education

Department: Academic Services

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 10/18/2021

Agenda Item Title/Topic: Budget Update 2021-2022

Type of Item: ☐ Consent ☐ Action ☒ Information

Main Points:

FY 2020-2021 ended on June 30, 2021, without the approval of a comprehensive State budget for the new fiscal year. As a result, the State is using recurring funding from the 2018-2019 State budget along with a series of “mini” budgets that were passed as funding for the year. The absence of a State budget again for FY 2021-2022 will continue to provide financial uncertainty for our District and the State. The General Assembly is currently working through various committees to develop a comprehensive State budget for 2021-2022. We are hopeful that the General Assembly and the Governor will be able to agree on a State budget for FY 2021-2022 soon.

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: 10/18/2021

Agenda Item Title/Topic: Acceptance of the June 30, 2020 Compliance Report

Type of Item: ☐ Consent ☒ Action ☐ Information

Main Points:

Anderson Smith and Wike PLLC, (ASW) Certified Public Accountants, have completed their compliance report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2020. This included a Report on the following areas: Internal Control Over Financial Reporting, Compliance with Major Federal Programs and Compliance with Major State Programs. A copy of the Compliance Report is provided for your review

Fiscal Implications:

N/A

Recommendation:

Board moves to accept Compliance Report.

Policy Implications:

Board policy 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

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 10/18/2021

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. Contracts
 - High School Stadium Network Connectivity
 - Lawn Care and Landscaping – Five Locations
 - Lawn Care and Landscaping – Four Schools
 - Cisco SMARTnet Renewal
 - Superintendent's Leadership Academy: Gardner-Webb University Amendment

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: 10/18/2021

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: 10/18/2021

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**

**2021-2022 Budget Resolution - July
Transfers Between Functions**

State Public School Fund

Function	Description	Expense Increase	Expense Decrease
5100	Regular Instructional Services		11,174
5400	School Leadership Services		586
6500	Operational Support Services	11,760	
		<u>11,760</u>	<u>11,760</u>

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

**Gaston County Schools
Changes in Appropriations**

**2021-2022 Budget Resolution - July
Transfers Between Functions**

Local Current Expense Fund

Function	Description	Expense Increase	Expense Decrease
5100	Regular Instructional Services		404,472
5400	School Leadership Services	1,293	
5500	Co-Curricular Services	15,800	
6100	Support and Development Services	341	
6500	Operational Support Services	313,788	
6600	Financial and Human Resource Services	14,744	
6900	Policy, Leadership and Communication/Public Information Services	37,446	
7200	Alternative Programs and Services Support	21,060	
		<u>404,472</u>	<u>404,472</u>

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

**Gaston County Schools
Changes in Appropriations**

**2020-2021 Budget Resolution - June Adjusted
Transfers Between Functions**

Local Current Expense Fund

Function	Description	Expense Increase	Expense Decrease
5100	Regular Instructional Services		170,462
5200	Special Population Services	16,780	
5300	Alternative Programs and Services	3,416	
5400	School Leadership Services	47,879	
5500	Co-Curricular Services	91,205	
5800	School-Based Support Services	2,252	
6100	Support and Development Services		13,732
6200	Special Population Support and Development Services		3,453
6300	Alternative Programs and Services Support		138
6400	Technology Support Services	34,603	
6500	Operational Support Services	104,307	
6600	Financial and Human Resource Services	89,691	
6700	Accountability Services		100,791
6800	System-Wide Pupil Support Services		3,942
6900	Policy, Leadership and Communication/Public Information Services		79,406
7200	Alternative Programs and Services Support	1,429	
8100	Payments to Other Governmental Units		19,638
		<u>391,562</u>	<u>391,562</u>

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

The highlighted amount shows additional transactions entered to zero out balances at year end FY21- Purpose codes 5100 & 6500. All other entries remain the same as in the June 2021 Board Report previously submitted.

**Gaston County Schools
Changes in Appropriations**

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

Local Current Expense Fund

#	Function	Description	Expense Increase (Decrease)	Revenue Increase (Decrease)
1	4800	Local Sources - Restricted	50,776	
	5100	Regular Instructional Services		50,776
	This amendment budgets the additional funds for Classroom Teachers allotment FY21 (PRC001)			
2	4800	Local Sources - Restricted	618,090	
	6600	Financial and Human Resource Services		618,090
	This amendment budgets the additional funds for Non-Contributory Employee Benefits Fund allotment FY21 (PRC009) to account for prepaid items (Worker Compensation) from FY20			
3	4800	Local Sources - Restricted	2,810	
	6400	Technology Support Services		2,810
	This amendment budgets the additional funds for E-Rate Technology allotment FY21 (PRC519)			
4	4800	Local Sources - Restricted	331,779	
	6500	Operational Support Services		331,779
	This amendment budgets the additional funds for Facilities Maintenance allotment FY21 (PRC880) to account for prepaid items (Property Insurance) form FY20			
Total Local Current Expense Fund Account			<u>1,003,455</u>	<u>1,003,455</u>

The highlighted amounts shows additional transactions entered to record actual expenses in FY21 that were prepaid in FY20. Transactions were also entered to zero out balances in PRC001 & PRC 519. Other entries (not highlighted) remain the same as in the June 2021 Board Report previously submitted.

Gaston County Schools
Changes in Appropriations

2020-2021 Budget Resolution - June Adjusted
Proposed Expenditures and Sources of Revenue

Restricted Grants Fund

#	Function	Description	Expense Increase (Decrease)	Revenue Increase (Decrease)
1	3700	Local Sources - Restricted		8,097
	5100	Regular Instructional Services	8,097	
	This amendment adjusts the ROTC Teachers Fund to account for expenses for FY21 (PRC001)			
2	4800	Local Sources - Restricted		779,270
	6600	Financial and Human Resource Services	779,270	
	This amendment adjusts the Central Office Administration Fund to account for expenses for FY21 (PRC002) for prepaid items (Liability Insurance costs) from FY20			
3	4800	Local Sources - Restricted		47,023
	6100	Financial and Human Resource Services	47,023	
	This amendment adjusts the Non-Instruction Support Fund to account for expenses for FY21 (PRC003)			
4	4800	Local Sources - Restricted		(63,544)
	6600	Financial and Human Resource Services	(63,544)	
	This amendment adjusts the Non-Contributory Employee Benefits Fund to move balance to deferred revenue for FY21 (PRC009)			
5	4800	Local Sources - Restricted		(100,183)
	5100	Regular Instructional Services	(100,000)	
	6100	Financial and Human Resource Services	(183)	
	This amendment adjusts the Drivers Education Fund to move balance to deferred revenue for FY21 (PRC012)			
6	4800	Local Sources - Restricted		(8,148)
	5200	Special Population Services	(8,148)	
	This amendment adjusts the Academically Intellect Gifted (AIG) Fund to move balance to deferred revenue for FY21 (PRC034)			
7	4800	Local Sources - Restricted		(640,000)
	5800	School-Based Support Services	(640,000)	
	This amendment adjusts the Elementary School Resource Officers Fund for FY21 (PRC039)			

Restricted Grants Fund

#	Function	Description	Expense	
			Increase (Decrease)	Revenue Increase (Decrease)
8	4800	Local Sources - Restricted		(512,736)
	5200	Special Population Services	(512,736)	
		This amendment adjusts the Medicaid Grant Fund to move balance to deferred revenue for FY21 (PRC305)		
9	4800	Local Sources - Restricted		14,346
	5100	Regular Instructional Services	14,346	
		This amendment adjusts the Graduation Grant Fund to account for expenses for FY21 (PRC420)		
10	4800	Local Sources - Restricted		39,356
	5100	Regular Instructional Services	33,672	
	6100	Support and Development Services	5,684	
		This amendment adjusts the Commissioner's School Grant Fund to account for expenses for FY21 (PRC501)		
11	4800	Local Sources - Restricted		(50)
	6500	Operational Support Services	(50)	
		This amendment adjusts the YMCA Grant Fund move balance to deferred revenue for FY21 (PRC507)		
12	4800	Local Sources - Restricted		(39)
	6600	Financial and Human Resource Services	(39)	
		This amendment adjusts the ID Badges-Human Resources Fund to move balance to deferred revenue for FY21 (PRC528)		
13	4800	Local Sources - Restricted		(313)
	5500	Co-Curricular Services	(313)	
		This amendment adjusts the School Expenses Fund to move balance to deferred revenue for FY21 (PRC540)		
14	4800	Local Sources - Restricted		(2,224)
	6100	Support and Development Services	(2,224)	
		This amendment budgets the Staff Development Grant Fund to move balance to deferred revenue for FY21 (PRC549)		

Restricted Grants Fund

#	Function	Description	Expense	
			Increase (Decrease)	Revenue Increase (Decrease)
15	4800	Local Sources - Restricted		(7,745)
	6500	Operational Support Services	(7,745)	
		This amendment adjusts the Project Manager Fund to move balance to deferred revenue for FY21 (PRCS65)		
16	4800	Local Sources - Restricted		(4,399)
	5100	Regular Instructional Services	(4,399)	
		This amendment adjusts the School Safety/Mentoring Grant Fund to move balance to deferred revenue for FY21 (PRCS76)		
17	4800	Local Sources - Restricted		(5,260)
	5100	Regular Instructional Services	(5,260)	
		This amendment adjusts the Duke Energy Middle School Books Grant Fund to move balance to deferred revenue for FY21 (PRCS92)		
18	4800	Local Sources - Restricted		(24,648)
	5100	Regular Instructional Services	(24,648)	
		This amendment adjusts the Strengthening Families Program Fund to move balance to deferred revenue for FY21 (PRCS99)		
19	4800	Local Sources - Restricted		(623)
	5300	Alternative Programs and Services	(623)	
		This amendment adjusts the Social Workers' Grant funds to move balance to deferred revenue for FY21 (PRC601)		
20	4800	Local Sources - Restricted		71,743
	5800	School-Based Support Services	71,743	
		This amendment adjusts the School Nurse (SNFI) Fund to account for expenses for FY21 (PRC615)		
21	4800	Local Sources - Restricted		(1)
	6500	Operational Support Services	(1)	
		This amendment adjusts the Sale of Scrap Metal Fund to move balance to deferred revenue for FY21 (PRC630)		

Restricted Grants Fund

#	Function	Description	Expense	
			Increase (Decrease)	Revenue Increase (Decrease)
22	4800	Local Sources - Restricted		79
	6500	Operational Support Services	79	
	This amendment adjusts the Facilities Remembrance Fund to account for expenses for FY21 (PRC635)			
23	4800	Local Sources - Restricted		931
	7100	Community Services	931	
	This amendment adjusts the Community Use Revenue Fund to account for expenses for FY21 (PRC704)			
24	4800	Local Sources - Restricted		(13,761)
	6500	Operational Support Services	(13,761)	
	This amendment adjusts the Transportation Activity Bus Fund to move balance to deferred revenue for FY21 (PRC706)			
25	4800	Local Sources - Restricted		(63)
	6500	Operational Support Services	(63)	
	This amendment adjusts the Insurance Claims Fund to move balance to deferred revenue for FY21 (PRC840)			
			<u>(422,892)</u>	<u>(422,892)</u>

Total Restricted Grants Fund Amendments

The highlighted amounts show transactions entered to record additional expenses in FY21 that were prepaid in FY20. Other entries (not highlighted) remain the same as in the June 2021 Board Report previously submitted.

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 10/18/2021

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
10-18-21	None				

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 10/18/2021

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: 10/18/2021

Agenda Item Title/Topic: High School Stadium Network Connectivity

Type of Item: ☒ Consent ☒ Action ☐ Information

Main Points:

To provide a fiber optic backbone to the high school stadiums from the main building data drops will be installed in the press box. Data drops will be installed in concessions area if feasible. Additional data drops will also be installed in the gymnasiums.

School	Cost	School	Cost
Ashbrook	\$12,275.10	Highland	\$10,950.25
Bessemer City	\$14,246.25	Hunter Huss	\$20,958.88
Cherryville	\$15,150.55	North Gaston	\$20,575.75
East Gaston	\$18,150.00	South Point	\$22,575.75
Forestview	\$18,800.80	Stuart W Cramer	\$ 515.52

Fiscal Implications:

We received two bids for this project, with Alcom being the lowest bidder. Local funds totaling \$154,199 will be used for this project.

Recommendation:

The Operations Committee recommends approval of purchasing the wiring and supplies needed to provide high school stadium network connectivity.

Policy Implications:

N/A

Strategic Goal Alignment:

Goal 1: Every student will graduate prepared for college, the work force, and other life-enhancing opportunities.

Submitted by: Dr. Aaron Slutsky, Chief Technology Officer

Department: TSS

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 10/18/2021

Agenda Item Title/Topic: Lawn Care and Landscaping – Five Locations

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

Main Points:

This contract will provide landscaping and lawn service to Woodhill Elementary, Lingerfeldt Elementary, H.H. Beam Elementary, Southwest Middle and Forest Heights for a period of nine months. Pre-bid meetings were held on September 7th & 14th with seven (7) vendors present on the September 7th and ten (10) vendors present on September 14th. The lowest qualified bidder for Woodhill Elementary (\$22,500), Lingerfeldt Elementary (\$19,750), H.H. Beam Elementary (\$22,000), Southwest Middle (\$21,000) and Forest Heights (\$21,000) was Bobby Sanders Lawn Service. The total contract for all five locations is \$106,250.

Fiscal Implications:

Total cost for a nine month contract for all five locations is \$106,250 and will be funded from local funding sources.

Recommendation:

The Operations Committee recommends awarding the contract to Bobby Sanders Lawn Service to provide lawn care and landscaping services to Woodhill Elementary, Lingerfeldt Elementary, H.H. Beam Elementary, Southwest Middle and Forest Heights.

Policy Implications:

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: 10/18/2021

Agenda Item Title/Topic: Lawn Care and Landscaping — Four Schools

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

Main Points:

This contract will provide landscaping and lawn service to Robinson Elementary, Gardner Park Elementary, Hawks Nest Elementary and Ashbrook High Schools. A pre-bid meeting was held on September 21st with ten (10) vendors present at the pre-bid meetings. The lowest qualified bidder for Robinson Elementary (\$31,000), Gardner Park Elementary (\$18,500), Hawks Nest Elementary (\$17,000) and Ashbrook High Schools (\$42,000) was Home Turf Lawns & Landscaping. Total contract for all four schools is \$108,500.

Fiscal Implications:

Total cost for a nine month contract for all four schools is \$108,500 and will be funded from local funding sources.

Recommendation:

The Operations Committee recommends awarding the contract to Home Turf Lawns & Landscaping to provide lawn care and landscaping services to Robinson Elementary, Gardner Park Elementary, Hawks Nest Elementary and Ashbrook High School.

Policy Implications:

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: 10/18/2021

Agenda Item Title/Topic: Cisco SMARTnet Renewal

Type of Item: ☒ Consent ☒ Action ☐ Information

Main Points:

These Cisco SMARTnet contract renewals cover our licenses for the VoIP phone systems, the wired network infrastructure, the wireless network infrastructure, the firewalls, VPN, as well as malware protection, intrusion detection, and intrusion prevention. Also, included are other services including software system updates and hardware failure replacement. Technical support for issues and upgrades is also included.

Fiscal Implications:

The CISCO SMARTnet contract renewals will cost \$525,900 for the current year. This amount is included in the current TSS operational budget.

Recommendation:

The Operations Committee recommends approval of the renewal of SMARTnet.

Policy Implications:

Policy Code: 3231/7371 Network Security

Strategic Goal Alignment:

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

Submitted by: Dr. Aaron W. Slutsky, Chief Technology Officer **Department:** TSS

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 10/18/2021

Agenda Item Title/Topic: Superintendent's Leadership Academy:
Gardner-Webb University Amendment

Type of Item: ☒ Consent ☒ Action ☐ Information

Main Points:

The Gaston County Schools Superintendent's Leadership Academy was created in 2015, to prepare and support our highly qualified educators to lead schools that accelerate learning. The goal of the academy is to prepare strong leaders for future opportunities.

Certified employees in Gaston County Schools may apply to earn a Masters in Educational Leadership through the online program at Gardner-Webb University (GWU) that will begin on October 2, 2021.

On August 16, 2021, the Board of Education approved the district's partnership with GWU to waive the cost of tuition for twelve qualified and eligible GCS employees to earn a Masters in Educational Leadership.

Fiscal Implications:

Gaston County Schools is responsible for:

Original contract amount: \$114,000 (twelve candidates)
Amendment amount: \$ 19,000 (two additional candidates)
Total: \$133,000 (fourteen candidates)

Recommendation:

Approve amended contract with Gardner-Webb University to waive the cost of tuition for two additional GCS employees to earn a Masters in Educational Leadership for a total of fourteen candidates.

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
Adams	Brittany	Demotion	School Nutrition - 007
Alexander	Barbara	Resignation, New Hire	Edward D. Sadler Jr. Elem. School - 392
Allison	Julia	New Hire	School Nutrition - 007
Anderson	Kimberly	New Hire	Ida Rankin Elementary School - 482
Auten	Sarah	Resignation	Student Support Services - 012
Avery	Iris	Retirement	Forestview High School - 396
Azuaje	Deborah	Transfer	Ida Rankin Elementary School - 482
Bandy	Sherry	Transfer	Webb Street School - 394
Beal	Marty	Resignation	Gardner Park Elementary School - 400
Beam	Chranson	Retirement	North Gaston High School - 470
Beam	Victoria	New Hire	Hawks Nest STEAM Academy - 420
Bean	Alexys	New Hire	Holbrook Middle School - 426
Beasley	Trina	Resignation	Webb Street School - 394
Bell	Janice	Transfer	Department for Exceptional Children - 004
Beveridge	Henry	Transfer	Webb Street School - 394
Bigelow	Alexis	New Hire	Carr Elementary School - 344
Biller	Chad	New Hire	Pleasant Ridge Elementary School - 480
Black	Tracy	Resignation	Cramerton Middle School - 380
Blanton	Jennifer	Promotion	Communications - 005
Bolding	Matthew	Promotion	School Nutrition - 007
Bolen	Lacey	New Hire	Springfield Elementary School - 499
Boykin	Jarae	New Hire	Bessemer City Primary - 338
Bridges	Chelsey	New Hire	Gardner Park Elementary School - 400
Briglia	Robbin	New Hire	School Nutrition - 007
Brown	Angela	New Hire	Hershal H. Beam Elementary School - 492
Brown	Willie	Demotion	School Nutrition - 007
Bryant	Stephenie	New Hire	W.A. Bess Elementary School - 510
Campbell	Nicole	New Hire, Resignation	School Nutrition - 007
Carson	Paul	New Hire	Lingerfeldt Elementary School - 438
Carter	Taylor	Resignation	Bessemer City High School - 336
Cavender	Shannon	New Hire	Page Primary - 430
Ceriello	Joseph	New Hire	Cramerton Middle School - 380
Chaparro Pena	Rosa	New Hire	Gardner Park Elementary School - 400
Chiselom	Debra	New Hire	Department for Exceptional Children - 004
Christina	RACHEL	Resignation	Cherryville High School - 360
Clements	Hannah	Resignation	W.C. Friday Middle School - 514
Clemmer	Breanna	New Hire	McAdenville Elementary School - 448
Clinton	Courtney	Resignation	Hershal H. Beam Elementary School - 492
Closs	Eric	New Hire	Hunter Huss High School - 428
Cobb	Katie	New Hire	Ida Rankin Elementary School - 482
Coble	Madison	New Hire	Gaston Virtual Academy - 550
Colvard, Jr	Johnny	New Hire	Bessemer City Middle School - 436
Colvin	Anna	New Hire	Bessemer City High School - 336
Conley	Cathy	New Hire	Gardner Park Elementary School - 400
Cragey Tillock	Marsha	New Hire	Grier Middle School - 408
Craig	Teresa	Demotion	School Nutrition - 007
Creaven	Erin	New Hire	Costner Elementary School - 376
Davenport	Dorothy	Transfer	Southwest Middle School - 498

Last Name	First Name	Category	School
Davis	Adrienne	Promotion	W Blaine Beam Intermediate - 339
Davis	Shannon	New Hire	York Chester Middle School - 526
Deal	April	Promotion	Pleasant Ridge Elementary School - 480
Deese	Ellen	New Hire	Bessemer City Primary - 338
Dillon	Penelope	Resignation	Department for Exceptional Children - 004
DiPietro	Melania	Transfer, Promotion	Grier Middle School - 408
Dixon	Sheree	Resignation	Department for Exceptional Children - 004
Earl	Jessica	Transfer	Gaston Virtual Academy - 550
Eisenhofer	Joel	New Hire	Warlick Academy - 372
Forbis	Angela	New Hire	Gaston Virtual Academy - 550
Forgan	Elizabeth	Promotion	McAdenville Elementary School - 448
Fowler	Sarah	New Hire	Cherryville High School - 360
Frazier	Karen	New Hire	Gaston Virtual Academy - 550
Froehlich	Amanda	Transfer	Gaston Virtual Academy - 550
Graham	Jonathan	Resignation	South Point High School - 494
Green	Tara	New Hire	Lingerfeldt Elementary School - 438
Greer	Thressia	New Hire	School Nutrition - 007
Guffey	Johnny	Promotion	Transportation - 009
Hamlett	Miriam	New Hire	South Point High School - 494
Hammond	Kimberly	Resignation	Stuart W. Cramer High School - 378
Hampton	Brittany	New Hire	Mount Holly Middle School - 456
Harper	Sheena	Transfer	Bessemer City Middle School - 436
Harrill	Amanda	New Hire	Cherryville Elementary School - 364
Harris	Wiley	Transfer	W.C. Friday Middle School - 514
Hartage	Monique	Promotion	Chapel Grove Elementary School - 352
Heedick	Jennifer	New Hire	Cherryville Elementary School - 364
Herman	Lisa	Resignation	Bessemer City Middle School - 436
Hibbler	Cynthia	Promotion	North Gaston High School - 470
Holgate	LeAnn	Resignation	Department for Exceptional Children - 004
Hollens	Leslie	New Hire	Page Primary - 430
Homesley	Jeremy	New Hire	Bessemer City High School - 336
Homesley	Vickie	Resignation	Bessemer City Middle School - 436
Hopkins	Na' Shara	New Hire	Hershal H. Beam Elementary School - 492
Houchard	Tamara	Resignation	Student Support Services - 012
Hoyle	Keyazhia	Promotion	Woodhill Elementary School - 520
Hunt	Angela	New Hire	School Nutrition - 007
Hutchins	Amber	Resignation	Business Services/Finance - 002
Jasso	Julia	Transfer	Webb Street School - 394
Jeffries	Lateka	New Hire	School Nutrition - 007
Jenkins	Linda	New Hire	School Nutrition - 007
Johnson	Maurice	Promotion	Communications - 005
Jones	Amanda	Transfer	Mount Holly Middle School - 456
Jordan	Elisabeth	Promotion	Academic Services - 021
Jordan	Sherry	New Hire	Pleasant Ridge Elementary School - 480
Kelly	Denise	New Hire	Warlick Academy - 372
Kendrick	Mariah	Transfer	Hawks Nest STEAM Academy - 420
Kilgore	Stephanie	Promotion	Edward D. Sadler Jr. Elem. School - 392
King	Courtney	Resignation	Webb Street School - 394

Last Name	First Name	Category	School
Lagos	Johana	New Hire	Lingerfeldt Elementary School - 438
Latyshev	Bonnie	Resignation	Hershal H. Beam Elementary School - 492
Lawrence	Karen	New Hire	Edward D. Sadler Jr. Elem. School - 392
Lee	Tanya	Resignation	Chapel Grove Elementary School - 352
Lindsay	Darius	Promotion	Grier Middle School - 408
Lingerfeldt	Debra	New Hire	Sherwood Elementary School - 490
Lowery	Bengle	Transfer	Holbrook Middle School - 426
Lowery	Kevin	Resignation	Hawks Nest STEAM Academy - 420
Lowery II	Glendon	Transfer	Facilities - 004
Mackins	Jordan	Resignation	Southwest Middle School - 498
Mason	Dominique	New Hire	Holbrook Middle School - 426
Mason	Venus	Resignation	Sherwood Elementary School - 490
Mathis	Zacharie	New Hire	Holbrook Middle School - 426
Mauldin	Alana	New Hire, Resignation	John Chavis Middle School - 431
May	Crystal	New Hire, Transfer	School Nutrition - 007, Belmont Central School - 320
McCain	Brenda	New Hire	School Nutrition - 007
McKoy	Tracy	Transfer	Gaston Virtual Academy - 550
Mecaughey	Madisan	New Hire	Cramerton Middle School - 380
Mejia perez	Ashley	Transfer	Grier Middle School - 408
Mendez	Valerie	New Hire	East Gaston High School - 390
Merrill	Kimberly	Promotion	Stuart W. Cramer High School - 378
Molinelli	Hannah	Promotion	North Belmont Elementary School - 468
Montoya-Tobon	Danny	Resignation	Hershal H. Beam Elementary School - 492
Moze Jr.	Roosevelt	New Hire	Cramerton Middle School - 380
Murray	Alexus	New Hire	Brookside Elementary School - 340
Norris	Meg	New Hire	School Nutrition - 007
Norus	Sarah	Transfer	Southwest Middle School - 498
Ondrejch	Katie	Promotion	Sherwood Elementary School - 490
Oxford	Susan	New Hire	School Nutrition - 007
Packer	Sarah	Promotion	Costner Elementary School - 376
Palmer-Blackwell	Gertrude	Transfer	Pleasant Ridge Elementary School - 480
Parker	Malasha	New Hire	Lingerfeldt Elementary School - 438
Pearson	Rachel	Resignation	Brookside Elementary School - 340
Perdiguero	Paula	Transfer	Carr Elementary School - 344
Pinckney	Samuel	New Hire	Holbrook Middle School - 426
Pollard	Nicole	New Hire	Gaston Virtual Academy - 550
Ponce	Joselin	New Hire	Robinson Elementary School - 488
Porter-Davis	Tanya	New Hire	Hershal H. Beam Elementary School - 492
Prevette	Katherine	Resignation	Gardner Park Elementary School - 400
Purvis	Lauran	Resignation	Grier Middle School - 408
Putnam	Josie	Demotion	School Nutrition - 007
Quick	Tonia	New Hire	Department for Exceptional Children - 004
Ray	Janet	New Hire	Bessemer City Primary - 338
Ray	Morgan	New Hire	Costner Elementary School - 376
Razo	Dalia	Resignation	North Belmont Elementary School - 468
Reid	Sheila	Resignation	Hershal H. Beam Elementary School - 492
Restrepo	Natalie	Promotion	Springfield Elementary School - 499
Rice	Lucretia	New Hire	Warlick Academy - 372

Last Name	First Name	Category	School
Richardson	Theresa	New Hire	Woodhill Elementary School - 520
Rivera-Menendez	Ashley	New Hire	Academic Services - 021
Roberts	Hannah	New Hire	Pleasant Ridge Elementary School - 480
Roberts	Lakeshia	Resignation	Department for Exceptional Children - 004
Robinson	Sarah	New Hire	East Gaston High School - 390
Sandry	Karen	Resignation	North Belmont Elementary School - 468
Setzer	Miranda	Promotion	Robinson Elementary School - 488
Short	Randal	Retirement	Holbrook Middle School - 426
Simmons	Makaila	New Hire	Department for Exceptional Children - 004
Singh	Paul	Resignation	Ashbrook High School - 310
Sisk	Christine	New Hire	Beam Intermediate School - 339
Smith	Kenneth	Promotion	Business Services/Finance - 002
Stacy	Charlotte	Transfer	North Belmont Elementary School - 468
Steele	William	New Hire	Belmont Central Elementary - 320
Stuckey	Christie	New Hire	Page Primary - 430
Sumner	Mary	New Hire	Academic Services - 021
Thibeault	Deborah	Resignation	Sherwood Elementary School - 490
Thomas	Stacey	Transfer	North Gaston High School - 470
Thornburg	Janet	New Hire	Bessemer City Primary - 338
Tscheiller	Shena	Transfer	Tryon Elementary School - 504
Usery	Melynda	Transfer	Pleasant Ridge Elementary School - 480
Waddell	Sherry	New Hire	Lingerfeldt Elementary School - 438
Walker	William	New Hire	Facilities - 004
Warner	Mary	Retirement	Lowell Elementary School - 440
Warren	Jennifer	Resignation	Stuart W. Cramer High School - 378
Watson	Lindsay	Resignation	Ida Rankin Elementary School - 482
Webber Thompson	Julian	Resignation	Grier Middle School - 408
Welch	Vickie	Promotion	Cramerton Middle School - 380
Weldon	Jacqueline	Transfer	Holbrook Middle School - 426
Wellman	Maira	New Hire	Hunter Huss High School - 428
Westbay	Stephen	New Hire	Edward D. Sadler Jr. Elem. School - 392
Westmoreland	Johnny	Resignation	Operations - 000
Wheeler	Alisa	New Hire	W.C. Friday Middle School - 514
Wilcox	Jessica	New Hire	Ida Rankin Elementary School - 482
Williams	Dorothy	Promotion	School Nutrition - 007
Williams	O'Bryan	New Hire	Grier Middle School - 408
Williams	Sara	Resignation	School Nutrition - 007
Williams	Thomasina	Promotion	Gardner Park Elementary School - 400
Williams	Vongenia	Promotion	Woodhill Elementary School - 520
Wilson-Brice	Chantrelle	Transfer	Warlick Academy - 372
Wingate	Jon	New Hire	Carr Elementary School - 344
Withers	Leanne	Transfer	Bessemer City Middle School - 436
Woolard	Donna	Transfer	Bessemer City Central - 332
Wright	Heather	New Hire	Pinewood Elementary School - 478
Young	Markeitta	New Hire	School Nutrition - 007