

**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.

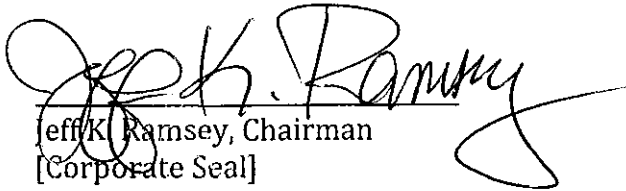
**Average Daily Membership (ADM)**

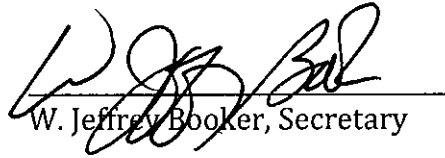
- Ensure LEA funding remains stable and is not negatively affected by impact of the pandemic.
- Continue to hold local school districts harmless on ADM for the 2021-2022 school year.

—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: 3/15/2021