

Gaston County Board of Education
Operations Committee Meeting Minutes
4:00 pm – August 2, 2021
943 Osceola Street – Board Room

1. **Call to Order (Chairman Dedmon)** – Meeting was called to order at 4:02pm. Present: Lee Dedmon, Dot Cherry and Brent Moore. GCS Staff present: Gary Hoskins, Morgen Houchard, Joey Clinton, Aaron Slutsky, Angela Calamia, Paul Williams, Chad Duncan, Chris Hall, Paul Nault, and Sierra Wray.
2. **Review and Approve Minutes from Previous Meeting (Chairman Dedmon)** – Brent Moore made a motion to approve minutes from the May 3, 2021 meeting. Dot Cherry seconded. Minutes were approved.
3. **Gaston Aquatic Inc.’s Proposal (Gary Hoskins)** - Gary Hoskins, shared information regarding Gaston Aquatic Inc.’s proposal to build an aquatic center in Gaston County. Gaston Aquatics wants to purchase approximately 2.5 acres of land near Stuart Cramer High School. No purchase price was presented. Should the Board of Education consider such a sale, Gaston County Commissioners would have to agree to the sale. Further, the Board of Education would be required to follow the process set forth in the General Statutes to dispose of real property. This matter will be discussed further by the Operations Committee.
4. **Dallas Property Update (Gary Hoskins)** - We currently own a property located at 425 S. Ridge Street in Dallas. This property was the subject of a plea agreement in a legal settlement years ago. It is a 1,418 square foot house built in 1971. The property is vacant and is not likely to be used for school purposes. The Committee recommends that we declare the property as surplus and begin the disposal process for this property. A resolution supporting this recommendation is included on the Consent Agenda.
5. **School Business Systems Modernization Update (Chris Hall)**
 - a. **Finance and Budget – July 1, 2021**
 - b. **HR and Payroll – October 1, 2021**
 - c. **Bi-weekly Payroll for Classified Employees – October 1, 2021**

Chris Hall, briefly updated us on the School Business Systems Modernization (SBSM) project. The SBSM project is state funded by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction. Oracle will be replacing our district’s primary Human Resources, Finance, and Payroll systems. Our new Finance system in Oracle went live on July 1, 2021. HR and Payroll systems are scheduled to Go-Live on October 1, 2021. Exempt employees will remain on a monthly payroll – generally on the 27th of each month.

Non-exempt employees will move to a bi-weekly payroll – every other Friday. We will be paying exempt employees more often since the new process is more efficient and streamlined.

6. **Community Use Fee Discussion (Chad Duncan)** - discussed adding a \$25 per day charge for extra cleaning as a result of COVID. Groups using our facilities for multiple days/weeks would only pay \$80 for the cleaning agent.

7. **Human Resources Update (Joey Clinton)** – Informed the committee that 261 new employees have recently been hired. Two hundred seventeen of these new hires are teachers and 131 are new teachers. Each school was given one additional teacher allotment due to COVID. This year there were approximately 100 retirements, which is more than our yearly average. The Safe School modules for all employees have been sent out for the 2021-2022 school year. TIPS for first year teachers and the Teaching and Learning Conference have both taken place for this year.

8. **Auxiliary Services Update**

a. **School Nutrition – Annual Report 2020-2021 (Angela Calamia)** - information from the 2020 – 2021 school year was reported.

b. **Belmont Middle School Update (Paul Nault)**

i. **Grand opening – Sunday, August 15th at 3:00pm**

ii. **Auction of Used Furniture/Equipment – Saturday July 24th**

iii. **Transfer of Title to County**

Paul Nault, gave updates on the new Belmont Middle School. The grand opening/ribbon cutting ceremony was held on August 15th. The auctioning of used furniture and equipment took place on July 24th. The transfer of the old Belmont Middle School to the County is expected to be completed this Fall.

c. **Current and Upcoming Capital Projects (Morgen Houchard, Chip Irby, Paul Nault, Matt Odom)** – information on the current and upcoming capital and summer projects was shared.

9. **School Bond Discussion (Gary Hoskins)**

a. **Existing \$60 Million Bond Offering**

b. **Future Bond Offering**

All funds have been allocated except \$588,501. Staff has worked with to determine the best location to build another middle school. Information was also reviewed by our Facilities department regarding the condition of our buildings. Based on this information, the Committee recommends that Grier Middle School be the next

replacement middle school. A resolution supporting this recommendation was included on the Board agenda.

10. Review/Discuss Change Orders (Gary Hoskins) – Change orders were submitted and discussed.

11. Contract Review

- a. **Contract Transportation (Paul Williams)**
- b. **Life Safety – Carr Elementary (Chip Irby)**
- c. **Life Safety – New Hope Elementary (Chip Irby)**
- d. **Stadium Lights – Forestview High (Chip Irby)**
- e. **Lawncare and Landscaping – Various Schools (Chip Irby)**
- f. **Cellular Telephone (Aaron Slutsky)**
- g. **WAN Contract (Aaron Slutsky)**
- h. **VoIP Contract (Aaron Slutsky)**

All contracts were recommended for approval for the Board and appeared on the Consent Agenda.

12. Discuss Potential Meeting Dates for 2021 (Chairman Dedmon)

September 6th

October 4th

November 1st

December 6th

(All meeting are scheduled to be at 4:00pm in the Central Office Board Room, unless otherwise noted)

13. Other Business and Discussion (Chairman Dedmon) – There was no other business to discuss.

14. Adjourn (Chairman Dedmon) – Meeting was adjourned at 5:51pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sierra H. Wray