

**Gaston County Board of Education**  
**Operations Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**4:00 pm – May 3, 2021**  
**943 Osceola Street – Board Room**

- 1. Call to Order (Chairman Dedmon)** – Meeting was called to order at 4:01pm.  
Present: Lee Dedmon, Kevin Collier, Dot Cherry, Brent Moore, and Jeff Ramsey.  
GCS Staff present: Gary Hoskins, Morgen Houchard, Joey Clinton, Aaron Slutsky, Amy Holbrook, Chris Hall, Chip Irby, Paul Nault, Matt Odom, and Sierra Wray.
- 2. Review and Approve Minutes from Previous Meeting (Chairman Dedmon)** – Dot Cherry made a motion to approve minutes from the March 1, 2021 meeting. Brent Moore seconded. Minutes were approved.
- 3. Discuss naming of York Chester Middle School Gymnasium (Amy Holbrook)** - Dr. Amy Holbrook, Principal of York Chester Middle School, proposed to the Committee to name the gym after Coach Michele Radford. She has been employed by Gaston County Schools since 1993 holding various positions. Coach Radford has promoted the ideals of hard work, integrity leadership, sportsmanship, and dedication to the York Chester community. The Operations Committee is recommending that the York Chester Middle School Gymnasium be named after Coach Michele Radford. This item was on the Consent Agenda for approval.
- 4. School Business Systems Modernization Update (Chris Hall)** - 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. Gaston County Schools was scheduled to go live with Phase 1 of this project on July 1, 2021 with Finance, and October 1, 2021 with Human Resources and Payroll.
- 5. Human Resources Update (Joey Clinton)** - shared that the Human Resources department held a Virtual Job Fair on May 5, 2021. Educational Partners International (EPI) teachers have been given an additional year (from 5 to 6 years) of employment due to COVID-19. End of the years tasks have started for the HR staff. Approximately 119 employees signed up for transfers. The second round of interviews for Principals took place on May 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>.

**6. Auxiliary Services Update (Morgen Houchard)**

**a. School Nutrition – Summer Feeding Option Extended through 2021-2022 -**

All 14 summer school sites will offer meals to all students on site whether they are attending the camp or not.

**b. Update on Stinger Park – Bessemer City -** Ground breaking for Stinger Park took place on April 21<sup>st</sup>. Any work that could be disrupted to the flow of school will not start until after students leave for summer break.

**c. Two-Tier Transportation Model - Starting August 2021 -** Starting in August, Gaston County School's transportation will operate on a two-tier transportation model. Because elementary schools operate from 7:30am to 2:30pm, and middle and high schools from 8:30am to 3:30pm a two tier model will work. This two-tier model will allow single bus runs for all students and schools, students will have a less waiting time for the bus, as well, many drivers will be given more time and some will qualify benefits they have not received in the past.

**d. Belmont Middle School Construction Update (Paul Nault) -** About 96% of the new Belmont Middle School is complete. We have received the Certificate of Occupancy for the building. Furniture and the graphics are being installed at this time. Overall, the school looks great.

**e. Upcoming Capital Projects (Morgen Houchard, Chip Irby, Paul Nault, Matt Odom) –** Details on upcoming projects were shared.

**7. ESSER II and ESSER III Funding - Operations (Gary Hoskins) -** Mr. Hoskins presented information on ESSER II and ESSER III Funding. He also explained how the unused 2018 bond funds would be disbursed for renovation and repairs.

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

**a. Unused 2018 Bond Funds**

**b. Replacement Middle School Discussion**

Mr. Hoskins explained how the unused 2018 bond funds would be disbursed for renovation and repairs.

**9. Review/Discuss Change Orders (Gary Hoskins) –** There were no change orders to review.

- 10. Contract Review (Chip Irby)**
- a. Forestview HS Drainage**
  - b. East Gaston HS Drainage**
  - c. Bessemer City MS Paving**
  - d. Bessemer City Landscaping**

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

**11. Discuss Potential Meeting Dates for 2021 (Chairman Dedmon)**

**June 7<sup>th</sup>** (No July mtg.) **August 2<sup>nd</sup>** **September 6<sup>th</sup>**

**October 4<sup>th</sup>** **November 1<sup>st</sup>** **December 6<sup>th</sup>**

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

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

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Sierra H. Wray