

**Gaston County Board of Education**  
**Operations Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**4:00 pm – September 13, 2021**  
**943 Osceola Street – Board Room**

- 1. Call to Order (Chairman Dedmon)** – Meeting was called to order at 4:04pm. Present: Lee Dedmon, Kevin Collier, Dot Cherry, Brent Moore, Steve Hall, and Jeff Ramsey. GCS Staff present: Gary Hoskins, Morgen Houchard, Joey Clinton, Aaron Slutsky, Chris Hall, Josh Allen, and Sierra Wray.
- 2. Review and Approve Minutes from Previous Meeting (Chairman Dedmon)** – Brent Moore made a motion to approve the minutes from the August 2, 2021 meeting. Kevin Collier seconded. Minutes were approved.
- 3. Gaston Aquatic Center Update (Gary Hoskins)** - Gary Hoskins, provided an update on the request from the Gaston Aquatic Center. The group has approached Gaston County Schools requesting consideration to purchase a portion of property adjacent to Lakewood Road near Stuart Cramer High School campus. They are working to prepare a more formal proposal to purchase for the Board’s consideration.
- 4. Dallas Property Update (Gary Hoskins)** - Mr. Hoskins provided an update on the residential property, located at 425 S. Ridge Street in Dallas which has been declared surplus by the Board. This item will be presented to the Gaston County Board of Commissioners to exercise their Right of First Refusal before the property can be sold.
- 5. School Business Systems Modernization Update (Chris Hall)**
  - a. HR and Payroll conversion date extended**
  - b. Bi-weekly Payroll schedule for Classified Employees extended**

Chris Hall, updated us on the School Business Systems Modernization (SBSM) project. Additional system testing continues at this time with the HR and Payroll components. HR and Payroll systems are now scheduled to Go-Live on January 1, 2022. All classified non-exempt employees will move from a monthly payroll to a bi-weekly payroll beginning January 2022. Due to the project timeline extension, CherryRoad has presented us with a change order that could be offset by adjusting the Phase 2 scope of work.
- 6. Human Resources Update (Joey Clinton)**
  - a. Current vacancies**
  - b. COVID cases**

Joey Clinton reported that we have 38 teacher vacancies, seven CTE vacancies at the middle and high schools and six exceptional children vacancies. Due to the enrollment numbers at the elementary schools, we were allotted seven more positions. Teachers and support staff with current CDL's are encouraged to drive buses. Any overtime earned as a result of driving a bus will be paid to the employee rather than earned as comp time. There are 22 student teachers working in the district this fall semester. Since August, there have been 101 positive Covid cases, 188 quarantined, and 3 clusters within the district.

**7. TSS Update (Aaron Slutsky)**

**a. Chromebook distribution**

Aaron Slutsky informed us that there have been over 9,000 Chromebooks setup, inventoried, and distributed throughout the district so that we maintain a 1 to 1 ratio of Chromebooks to students.

**8. Auxiliary Services Back to School Update (Morgen Houchard)**

- a. **School Nutrition** - Currently has 60 vacancies plus an additional 12 employees in Covid protocols. With the new freezer and the dry storage space at the Central Kitchen we have been able to manage and mitigate the food shortages and delivery problems. There are many shortages and price increases on meats, paper products, and canned foods, but we are working through them.
- b. **Transportation** - The four camera system is now fully functional on all yellow buses. We have continued to support and utilize the Two-Tier Model for bus transport of students and it is working well. However, there are currently 14 bus driver vacancies which negatively impacts certain bus routes.
- c. **Safety and Security** - Continuing to work with school leadership for athletic events to ensure proper metal detecting and bag searches and with all aspects of school safety. Also, the team is assisting with security fencing and life safety improvements throughout the district.
- d. **Facilities** - Work orders are still being completed in a timely fashion. There are 577 open. We have 14 vacancies throughout the many departments.
- e. **Capital Projects** - Information on current capital projects was shared.

**9. Easement Review and Discussion (Morgen Houchard)**

**a. North Belmont Elementary School**

**b. Belmont Middle School**

Easements at North Belmont Elementary and Belmont Middle School were reviewed and discussed.

**10. Local Maintenance, Repairs and Salary Adjustments (Gary Hoskins)** - Gary Hoskins discussed local maintenance and repair projects and salary adjustments.

**11. Future School Bond Discussion**

**a. Grier Middle School (Morgen Houchard)**

**i. Architect selection process**

**ii. Status of due diligence**

**b. Other Potential Bond Projects (Gary Hoskins)**

The timeline for the selection of an architect for the new Grier Middle School was explained. Requests for Qualifications from architects were due by 2:00pm on September 24, 2021. After reviewing potential candidates for the project, we plan to recommend an architect to the Board on November 15, 2021. A draft of potential bond projects was shared.

**12. Former Belmont Middle School (Gary Hoskins)**

**a. Resolution declaring former Belmont Middle School as surplus**

The Committee agreed to recommend that the old Belmont Middle School property be declared as surplus. This item appeared on the Consent Agenda.

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

**14. Contract Review**

**a. Purchase Student Chromebooks (Aaron Slutsky)**

**b. Purchase Teacher Chromebooks (Aaron Slutsky)**

**c. Purchase Commercial Dehumidifiers (Morgen Houchard)**

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

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

**October 4<sup>th</sup>**

**November 1<sup>st</sup>**

**December 6<sup>th</sup>**

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

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

**17. Adjourn (Chairman Dedmon)** – Meeting was adjourned at 5:42pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sierra H. Wray