

GASTON COUNTY
BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR SESSION



Shaping Our Future

943 Osceola Street, Gastonia, NC 28054
November 21, 2022
5:30 p.m.

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 11/21/2022

Agenda Item Title/Topic: Agenda Adoption

Type of Item: ☐ Consent ☒ Action ☐ Information

Main Points:

Consideration of Formal Agenda for Monday, November 21, 2022.

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, November 21, 2022

5:30 p.m.

Agenda

Regular Meeting

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- XII. Superintendent's Comments
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- XIV. 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.
- XV. Adjournment

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 11/21/2022

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: November 2022

1. **W.A. Bess Elementary** was honored during the 2022 National Blue Ribbon School ceremony in Washington, D.C. Principal **Laura Clark**, teacher **Nikki Simmons**, and Superintendent of Schools **W. Jeffrey Booker** attended the ceremony to accept the award from the U.S. Department of Education. The school conducted a ceremony on Thursday, November 17 to celebrate the school's distinction as a 2022 National Blue Ribbon School. The recognition is given annually by the U.S. Department of Education to schools that have shown consistent outstanding academic performance and achievement.
2. **Gaston County Schools** held its annual Marching Band Fanfare on Saturday, November 5 at **Stuart W. Cramer High School**. The event featured performances by all high school marching bands.
3. The **Gaston County Schools** Career and Technical Education (CTE) Department sponsored the National Technical Honor Society induction ceremony on Tuesday, November 15 at **Stuart W. Cramer High School**. Nearly 300 students were inducted as members of the National Technical Honor Society.
4. The following students were chosen as **Gaston County Schools'** nominees for the Career and Technical Education (CTE) Presidential Scholars recognition: **Kaneisha Gladden, Ashbrook High School; Hannah Mitchell, Bessemer City High School; Joseph England, Cherryville High School; Paxton Free, Stuart W. Cramer High School; Anhelena Becerra, East Gaston High School; Georgia Becton, Forestview High School; Josefina Houchard, Highland School of Technology; Bradley Mattice, Hunter Huss High School; and Jenna Mason, North Gaston High School.**
5. The following educators received grants offered by the Kines family in memory of Kay Scarce, who taught for 31 years at **Bessemer City Primary School**. The grant recipients are **Stephanie Plong, Bessemer City Primary; Erica Hawes, Bessemer City High School; Michelle Leagan, Brookside Elementary; Porsha Leathers, Brookside Elementary; Brooke Silver, Cherryville Elementary; Jasmine Rompilla, Lowell Elementary; Chelsea Harley, New Hope Elementary; Mary Prunty, Page Primary; and Aristela Torres, Pleasant Ridge Elementary.**
6. The elementary school student winners in the Keep Gastonia Beautiful recycled art contest are **Wendy Mendoza Martinez**, first place, **Lowell Elementary; Hunter Clark**, second place, **Bess Elementary; Mariana Osornio Resendiz**, third place, **Lowell Elementary; Eason Hobbs**, honorable mention, **Bess Elementary; and Mackenzi Boyd**, honorable mention, **Bess Elementary.**

7. The following middle school students were winners in the Keep Gastonia Beautiful recycled art contest: **Emily Carroll**, first place, **Belmont Middle**; **Charlotte Aschmann**, second place, **Belmont Middle**; **Mackenzie Dumont**, third place, **Belmont Middle**; **Ava Peloso**, honorable mention, **Belmont Middle**; and **Campbell Kolbash**, honorable mention, **Belmont Middle**.
8. Students from **Belmont Middle**, **Cramerton Middle**, **Stuart W. Cramer High**, **East Gaston High**, **Forestview High**, **Holbrook Middle**, **Hunter Huss High**, **Mount Holly Middle**, **Pinewood Elementary**, **Pleasant Ridge Elementary**, **Rankin Elementary**, and **Stanley Middle** participated in the Mount Holly Lantern Parade. Students carried their own handmade lanterns alongside other lanterns that complemented the “European Style” theme. Stanton Enterprise and the Gaston County Development Foundation donated supplies for teachers and students to create the lanterns. In addition, the parade was led by members of the Roaring Panthers Marching Band from **Pleasant Ridge Elementary**.
9. The following teachers received one of the Ron L. Ensley grants, which are presented by the Gaston County Education Foundation and fund classroom learning projects (project names listed in italics): **Melissa Chappel**, **Tracy McKoy**, and **Meagan Ingram**, *Life Cycles in Action*, **Gaston Virtual Academy**; **Susanne Raxter**, *Mind Mover Engineering*, **Hawks Nest STEAM Academy**; **Susanne Raxter**, **Stephanie Witten**, **Majorie Bone**, **Wendy Cheek**, and **Amber Robertson**, *Oh! The Places We Will Go*, **Hawks Nest STEAM Academy**; **Melanie Weaver**, *The Little English Class That Could*, **Highland School of Technology**; **Dawn Chatkin**, *Flexible Seating*, **W.A. Bess Elementary**; **Donna Smith**, **Susan Tobiasson**, and **Anna Czekaj**, *Shedding Light on Watershed*, **Stanley Middle School**; **Rhonda Fancher**, *Adopt a Furry Reading Buddy*, **Bessemer City Central**; **Summer Kelly** and **Anna Howard**, *Makerspace*, **Holbrook Middle**; **April Collins**, **Taylor Detwiler**, **Jorge Hero**, and **Jordanna Jones**, *Symbioses Trail*, **Holbrook Middle**; **Christine Tileston**, *Tools for Functional Math*, **Webb Street School**; and **Shelbie Setzer**, *Math in Motion*, **Lingerfeldt Elementary**.
10. The “Do the Right Thing” award winners for October are **Journey Jones**, **Bessemer City Primary**; **Darluh Mattaldi**, **Kiser Elementary**; **Valentina Gomez**, **Cramerton Middle**; and **Jack Hayes**, **South Point High School**.
11. **Ashbrook High School** and **Hunter Huss High School** students hosted a trick-or-treat event at their school for the community. Students decorated classroom doors and handed out candy to children.
12. **Ashbrook High School** held a fall arts showcase that involved students who are in the school’s art, band, chorus, and theater classes.
13. **W.A. Bess Elementary** fifth grade students teamed up with The Cato School of Education at UNC-Charlotte to collect new and gently used books and stuffed animals. Through this program, literacy awareness is emphasized by putting books and reading buddies (stuffed animals) in the hands of every pre-kindergarten through fifth grade student at Nations Ford Elementary School in Charlotte. The students collected a total of 351 books and stuffed animals.

14. As part of the Gaston County Career Awareness Program, **W.A. Bess Elementary** fifth graders participated in hands-on activities such as learning how to take temperatures, blood pressure readings, check a pulse, and how to properly perform CPR.
15. The following middle schools won championships during the fall sports season: golf, **Cramerton**; softball, **Belmont**; and football, **Belmont**.
16. **Bessemer City Middle School** promoted Hispanic Heritage Month by hosting a discussion panel of eighth grade students who identify as Hispanic or Latino. Students were engaged in the program as they learned about food, music, holidays, school experiences, and challenges that are faced in the Hispanic culture.
17. The **Cherryville High School** volleyball team hosted a powder puff volleyball tournament to raise money for childhood cancer. The tournament raised \$1,000, which was donated to Levine Children's Hospital. Senior **Raleigh Kiser** organized the event.
18. The **Cherryville High School** junior class visited Appalachian State University and toured the campus, visited the athletic facilities, and ate in the campus cafeteria. The trip was funded by the Cherryville High School Education Foundation.
19. **Cherryville High School** seniors **Kelly Diaz** and **Katie Diaz** won the Southern Piedmont 1A/2A doubles championship in tennis, finished fourth in the 1A regional doubles tennis championship, and qualified for the state championship.
20. **Stuart W. Cramer High School** senior **Nathaniel Cheek** was selected for the Western Piedmont Youth Symphony Orchestra.
21. The **Stuart W. Cramer High School** Stagestruck Players presented "A Cemetery Walk Through Time" at New Hope Presbyterian Church in Gastonia. Students gave tours through the cemetery and introduced participants to people from the past. The event served as a fundraiser for the school's theater arts program.
22. Two **Stuart W. Cramer High School** students earned awards at the North Carolina Theatre Conference High School Play Festival for the school's production of "Aladino!" **Bowie Werran** received the Excellence in Acting Award for his role as Arlecchino and **Caleb Bailey** received the Excellence in Acting Award for her role as Brigella. In addition, the entire cast received the Excellence in Ensemble Acting Award, and teacher **Chuck Stowe** received honorable mention for distinguished play.
23. The **Stuart W. Cramer High School** public safety class visited Gaston County's 911 Communications, Emergency Management, Fire Services, and GEMS Center to learn about careers and professional opportunities in public safety.
24. **Stuart W. Cramer High School** senior **Charlie Sly** committed to wrestle at Gardner-Webb University, and senior **Peyton Conroy** committed to playing softball at Michigan State University.

25. Three **East Gaston High School** students were selected to sing at the Mars Hill University Choral Festival: **Pressley Rankin**, **Breana Connelly**, and **Kathryn Meranto**.
26. The **East Gaston High School** cheerleading team competed in the Davidson College Spirit Invitational on October 29 and received the highest score of all teams competing in the game day routine category. The cheerleaders also competed at the Mountain Regional Cheer Competition on November 5 and received first place in the traditional routine and third place in game day routine categories.
27. **East Gaston High School** senior **Grace Doster** signed a national letter of intent to play soccer at Belmont Abbey College.
28. **Forestview High School** student **Georgia Becton** received a \$1,000 scholarship for her first-place lantern titled "Artemis" in the Mount Holly Lantern Parade.
29. **Forestview High School** senior **Elizabeth Foor** passed the Board of Review and became an Eagle Scout. She completed the requirements of an Eagle Scout in three years after Boy Scouts of America allowed females to join. Her project included constructing a covered bench and swing set for Dove's Nest, an outreach program of the Charlotte Rescue Mission that provides temporary housing for women who are transitioning out of an addiction program.
30. **Forestview High School** junior **Rennie Liu** won the 3A west regional individual tennis title and was a semifinalist in the state 3A tennis individual championship.
31. **Forestview High School** sophomore **Emily Raspanti** finished first at the Big South Conference meet and qualified for the 3A cross country state championship.
32. The **Forestview High School** marching band competed in the Pirate Cove Classic and placed first in percussion, first in color guard, second in general effect, third in drum major, third in visual performance, third in music performance, and third overall.
33. **Gaston Early College High School** sophomores assisted Keep Gastonia Beautiful with decorating for the holiday season. The group also assisted with sprucing up the Highland Community Garden.
34. **Gaston Early College of Medical Sciences** partnered with the Chick-fil-A Leadership Academy and involved 30 students, who packaged books for **Costner Elementary**. The students will participate in monthly leader labs and three community service projects throughout the year.
35. A group of **Gaston Early College of Medical Sciences** students loaded items into a moving pod and made tie dye shirts for the Gaston County Child Advocacy Group.
36. **Hunter Huss High School** Career and Technical Education teacher **Amy Wooten** took a class to Gaston College to learn about apprenticeship programs and skilled labor positions.

37. **Hunter Huss High School** students in **Jessica Brigola's** class connected virtually with students more than 8,000 miles to learn about Philippine culture from their peers and share about the culture in America.
38. The **Hunter Huss High School** cafeteria staff received a perfect 100 percent sanitation rating.
39. **Hunter Huss High School** student **Jaylen Thorne** has been accepted into the Apprenticeship 321 program at Gaston College.
40. **Lingerfeldt Elementary** used the election season to nominate its first student government on November 11. Students were elected from each of the third, fourth, and fifth grade homerooms. Students campaigned and provided speeches to their classmates.
41. **Lingerfeldt Elementary** teacher **Elizabeth Conyers** was named the Department of Exceptional Children Teacher of the Year.
42. **McAdenville Elementary's** first grade class was featured on Queen City News Channel 46 as part of the TV station's hometown series. The news crew filmed students preparing to sing at the Christmas Town USA ceremony. In addition, McAdenville students have been invited to participate in the tree lighting ceremony and the town's yule log parade.
43. **McAdenville Elementary** celebrated the end of a successful Red Ribbon Week with a pep rally on October 28. Cheerleaders and football players from **Stuart W. Cramer High School** participated in the pep rally and spoke to the students about why they choose to be drug and bully free. Each class made up a cheer and performed it during the event.
44. **North Gaston High School** student **Wesley Lawson** won an Excellence in Acting Award for his role as the animal trainer in the play "Elephant's Graveyard" at the North Carolina Theatre Conference High School Play Festival. In addition, the school won the Festival Spirit Award.
45. The **North Gaston High School** yearbook staff spent time mentoring members of the **W.C. Friday Middle School** yearbook staff.
46. **North Gaston High School** senior **Crystal Bender** won first place at the Keep Gastonia Beautiful recycled art contest for her piece titled "Shlomes' Hat." She constructed her life-size hat (able to be worn) out of cardboard, newspaper, magazines for color, and other objects.
47. The **North Gaston High School** Marching Wildcats competed at the Freedom Classic Tournament of Bands. The band won first place in Class 2A, first place in music, second place in marching, first place in general effect, and second place in percussion. In addition, the band competed at the East Burke Cavalier Classic and won second place in Class 1A, second place in music, first place in marching, second place in general effect, third place in drum major, first place in percussion, and third place in color guard.

48. Three **North Gaston High School** students were selected to attend the Winthrop Invitational Band Clinic on November 17-19. **Ajah Harris** and **David Trujillo-Gomez** were selected on clarinet and **Eric St. Laurent** was selected for percussion. Additionally, six students were selected to attend the UNC-Charlotte Honor Band on December 9-10: **Ajah Harris**, **David Trujillo-Gomez**, **Hala Freeman**, and **Ruby Ruiz** on clarinet, **Michael Salas** and **Charlie Eason** on trombone, and **Eric St. Laurent** on percussion.
49. **Pleasant Ridge Elementary** held a Math Fair on November 8 with 146 student projects on display. Eighteen of the projects were selected to advance to the Western Regional Math Fair of the North Carolina Council of Teachers of Mathematics, which will be held at Appalachian State University in March 2023.
50. The **Sherwood Elementary PTO** received a \$5,000 grant for the establishment of an outdoor classroom.
51. **Sherwood Elementary** teacher **Kim Queen** received a \$1,500 grant to provide students with an eBird learning collaboration with the North Carolina Arboretum. Recently, her students focused on the processes needed to observe, study, and collect data as part of the learning collaboration.
52. **South Point High School** senior **Joshua Crowder** was named recipient of the 2022 Michael A. Kahn Community Service-Scholastic Scholarship Award, which is presented by the Michael A. Kahn Family Foundation. He will be recognized by the Charlotte Touchdown Club at the 2022 Bronko Nagurski Trophy Awards Banquet on December 5.
53. The **South Point High School** marching band competed in the Pride of Robinson Invitational at Robinson High School and placed second in percussion and second in color guard.
54. The **South Point High School** girls golf team finished third at the 3A state championship. Team members are **Madison Pruden**, **Amelia Connor**, and **Carli Anne Phillips**.
55. The **South Point High School** cheerleading team placed first at the Marvin Ridge High School Maverick Classic Cheer competition.
56. **Springfield Elementary** received a \$6,250 grant from American Woodworks to purchase new computer chairs for teachers and to help with resurfacing a blacktop space where a mural will be created.
57. **York Chester Middle School** held its annual International Music and Arts Festival and had significant support from the community.

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 11/21/2022

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: 11/21/2022

Agenda Item Title/Topic: Approval/Correction of Minutes

Type of Item: ☐ Consent ☒ Action ☐ Information

Main Points:

Approval of Minutes of:
October 17, 2022

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, October 17, 2022
Meeting 5:30 p.m.

MINUTES

The Gaston County Board of Education met in a regular session on Monday, October 17, 2022 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, Justin Davis, Lee Dedmon, Dot Guthrie and Robbie Lovelace. (Kevin Collier, Steve Hall and Brent Moore were absent)

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

Chairman Ramsey called the meeting to order at 5:30 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 Ms. Dot Cherry; motion carried unanimously. (6-0)

Good News – Information

Superintendent Booker recognized Matthew Heilig, Forestview High School. Over the summer, Matthew earned two gold medals and qualified for the USA Junior World Team at the United States Artistic Roller Skating Nationals competition in Nebraska. Next week, Matthew will compete in Buenos Aires, Argentina at the World Skate games.

Mrs. Dot Guthrie presented a Certificate of Recognition to Matthew.

Superintendent Booker recognized Sharidan Costner, who is the current Miss Gastonia and a 2020 graduate of Forestview High School. This summer, Sharidan represented Gastonia in the Miss North Carolina competition, and she will conclude her year of service next month when she crowns the next Miss Gastonia.

Mrs. Dot Guthrie presented a Certificate of Recognition to Sharidan.

Superintendent Booker recognized the following teachers who recently completed a year-long coursework titled “Gaston County Schools AIG Local Endorsement” or “G.A.L.E.” to work with gifted students.

Andrea Bookout, Chavis Middle
Kelly Carpenter, Mount Holly Middle
Michelle Crowder, Grier Middle
Faith Dibble, Stanley Middle
Nicole Eskay, Holbrook
Laura McDowell, Holbrook
Jennifer Ray, Mount Holly Middle
Stephanie Vogel, Stanley Middle
Maria Xiong, Southwest Middle
Jennifer Zigler, Mount Holly Middle

The G.A.L.E. coursework is designed to highlight and promote best instructional practices and provide training for educators. Additionally, the teachers had to complete 12 modules on gifted topics and conduct a case study.

Mr. Justin Davis presented a recognition plaque to each teacher.

Superintendent Booker recognized one of our longtime business partners for their continued support of our schools. Last month, Tindol Subaru provided classroom grants to six teachers at Gardner Park Elementary School. The following teachers, from Gardner Park Elementary, were recognized.

Rachael Stoller
Kennedy Devine
Briana Currence
Myla Hoey
Amy Hurley
Carly Edge

Each of the recognized teachers received a \$500 grant from Tindol Subaru. Superintendent Booker also recognized Paige Murphy and Robin Anderson from Tindol Subaru.

Ms. Dot Cherry presented a Certificate of Recognition to each teacher.

Public Expression – Information

Angela M. Datz
5545 Union Road
Gastonia, NC 28054

RE: Deadlines – Teacher salary and end of year tax question

Dr. Jason Edward Black, Ph.D.
10397 Falling Leaf Drive
Concord, NC 28027

RE: Retire the Red Raider Mascot

Although Dr. Jason Edward Black completed the Request to Speak Form, Dr. Jason Edward Black did not appear at the meeting.

Rebecca LaClaire
6478 Kemp Street
Charlotte, NC 28213
RE: Retire the Red Raider Mascot

Rev. Dr. Richard Boyce
112 Dorie Drive
Belmont, NC 28012
RE: Retire the Red Raider Mascot

Becky Gaither
1001 Southfork Village Drive Apt. 107
Belmont, NC 28012
RE: Retire the Red Raider Mascot

Lauren Frady
1327 Perfection Avenue
Belmont, NC 28012
RE: Retire the Red Raider Mascot

Dana S. Frady
1327 Perfection Avenue
Belmont, NC 28012
RE: Retire the Red Raider Mascot

Valerie Shuler
1013 Cheviot Lane
Gastonia, NC 28054
RE: Payroll Issues

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

Pam Miller
2001-D Cramerton Village Drive
Cramerton, NC 28032
RE: Payroll Issues

Tyler Monfils
120 Hayden Court
Mt. Holly, NC 28120
RE: Retire the Red Raider Mascot

Julia Grooms
121 Butternut Drive
Kings Mountain, NC 28086
RE: Pay

Sherry Willis
400 River Park Road
Belmont, NC 28012
RE: Payroll Issues

Approval/Correction of Minutes

The Board considered Approval/Correction of Minutes – Action

Motion to adopt minutes of September 19, 2022 as presented was made by Mr. Lee Dedmon; seconded by Mr. Justin Davis; motion carried unanimously. (6-0)

Operations Committee Report – Information

Lee Dedmon is chair of the committee and members are Dot Cherry, Kevin Collier and Brent Moore. 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)

Curriculum & Instruction Committee Report – Information

Dot Guthrie is chair of the committee and members are Justin Davis, Steve Hall and Robbie Lovelace. 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)

National Principals Month Proclamation – Action

Chairman Ramsey recognized Mr. Todd Hagans who reported October is National Principals Month. Mr. Hagans read the National Principals Month Proclamation.

Motion

The Motion was made by Ms. Dot Cherry; seconded by Mrs. Dot Guthrie that the Board
Approve National Principals Month Proclamation

A vote was taken and motion to approve the item as presented carried unanimously. (6-0)

(View Proclamation)

School Business Systems Modernization Update – Information

Chairman Ramsey recognized Mr. Gary Hoskins who presented a PowerPoint on School Business Systems Modernization Update.

(View PowerPoint)

Beginning Teacher Support Program – Information

Chairman Ramsey recognized Ms. Caroline Black who presented a PowerPoint on Beginning Teacher Support Program 2022-2023.

(View PowerPoint)

School Improvement Plans (SIP) – Information

Chairman Ramsey recognized Mrs. Rebekka Powers who presented a PowerPoint on School Improvement Plans 2022-2024.

(View PowerPoint)

School Improvement Plans (SIP) for Low Performing Schools (LPS) – Information

Chairman Ramsey recognized Mrs. Rebekka Powers who presented a PowerPoint on Low Performing Schools Improvement Plans,

(View PowerPoint)

High School Exam Schedules – Fall 2022-2023 Traditional High Schools and Gaston Early Colleges – Action

Chairman Ramsey recognized Mrs. Cristi Bostic who presented a PowerPoint on High School Final Exam Schedule Fall 2022.

Motion

The Motion was made by Ms. Dot Cherry; seconded by Mrs. Dot Guthrie that the Board

Approve High School Exam Schedules – Fall 2022-2023 Traditional High Schools and Gaston Early Colleges

A vote was taken and motion to approve the item as presented carried unanimously. (6-0)

(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. Contracts
 - Transportation — Smart School Bus Safety Pilot Program
 - Kiser Elementary School — Boiler Renovation
 - North Gaston High School — LED Lighting Replacement
 - Duke Energy Easement — W.A. Bess Elementary
 - Successful Practices Network — Warlick Academy

Motion to adopt the Consent Agenda as presented was made by Ms. Dot Cherry; seconded by Mr. Lee Dedmon motion carried unanimously. (6-0)

Superintendent's Comments

Superintendent Booker thanked parents and teachers for the successful parent-teacher conferences last Thursday.

Superintendent Booker reported we celebrated the official opening of Pinewood Elementary's new outdoor classroom last Tuesday afternoon. The project was completed as a tribute to former teacher Patsy Norwood, who taught at the school for more than 20 years.

Superintendent Booker reminded everyone that October is "NC Countdown to College" Month. During College Application Week, which is this week, many universities and colleges waive application fees. Gaston College will host an open house on Tuesday, October 25.

Superintendent Booker announced two upcoming fine arts events. The all-county chorus concert will be held Monday, October 24 at 7:00 p.m. in the auditorium at Stuart W. Cramer High School. The Marching Band Fanfare will be held on Saturday, November 5 from 3:00 – 7:00 p.m. in the football stadium at Stuart W. Cramer High School.

Closed Session

Chairman Ramsey asked the Board to consider going into Closed Session under, N.C.G.S. §143-318.11(a)(6) Personnel and N.C.G.S. §143-318.11(a)(3) Consultation with Attorney.

Motion to go into Closed Session was made by Mr. Justin Davis; seconded by Ms. Dot Cherry; motion carried unanimously. (6-0)

The Board went into Closed Session at 7:32 p.m.

Adjournment

All business having been conducted, Motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Lee Dedmon; seconded by Mr. Justin Davis motion carried unanimously. (6-0)

The Board Meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Approved:

Jeff K. Ramsey, Chairman
[Corporate Seal]

W. Jeffrey Booker, Secretary

Date Approved: _____

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 11/21/2022

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. The Committee met on November 14, 2022. A report of the Operations Committee's actions and discussions will be made at the Board meeting by a member of the Committee.

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: 11/21/2022

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: 11/21/2022

Agenda Item Title/Topic: School Health Advisory Council (SHAC)

Type of Item: ☐ Consent ☐ Action ☒ Information

Main Points:

The School Health Advisory Council (SHAC) is a group of individuals in Gaston County primarily from health and education backgrounds. The purpose of the Council is to advise Gaston County Schools (GCS) on health related issues.

Members of the SHAC Committee have established and developed partnerships with GCS by assisting in identifying health needs and concerns, setting health priorities, and designing interventions and solutions to meet those health needs.

Fiscal Implications:

N/A

Recommendation:

Continue supporting the School Health Advisory Council.

Policy Implications:

N/A

Strategic Goal Alignment:

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

Submitted by: Cristi Bostic,
Executive Director of High School Instruction

Department: Academic Services

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 11/21/2022

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. Board Policy Updates
- E. Contracts
 - National Inventors Hall of Fame (NIHF)
 - Student Imaging and Destruction of Records
 - Tutored by Teachers (TbT)
 - High Dosage Virtual Tutoring
 - School Improvement Plans (SIP)
 - School Improvement Plans (SIP) for Low Performing Schools (LPS)
 - Oracle Operational Support
 - Student Chromebook Purchases
 - Network Equipment Purchases
 - Classroom LED PC Upgrades
 - Lightspeed Systems Renewal
 - Rader Center Audio-Visual Upgrade

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: 11/21/2022

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: 11/21/2022

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 2022-2023 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

2022-2023 Budget Resolution - October
Transfers Between Functions

State Public School Fund

Function	Description	Expense Increase	Expense Decrease
5100	Regular Instructional Services	89,885	
5200	Special Population Services		8,942
5300	Alternative Programs and Services		77,885
5800	School-Based Support Services		3,058
		<u>89,885</u>	<u>89,885</u>

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

**Gaston County Schools
Changes in Appropriations**

**2022-2023 Budget Resolution - October
Transfers Between Functions**

Local Current Expense Fund

Function	Description	Expense Increase	Expense Decrease
5100	Regular Instructional Services		79,102
5400	School Leadership Services		36
5500	Co-Curricular Services		4,295
5800	School-Based Support Services		4,293
6100	Support and Development Services	9,168	
6400	Technology Support Services	42,786	
6500	Operational Support Services		52,074
6600	Financial and Human Resource Services	133,283	
6900	Policy, Leadership and Communication/Public Information Services		47,489
7200	Nutrition Services	2,050	
		<u>187,288</u>	<u>187,288</u>

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

Gaston County Schools
Changes in Appropriations

2022-2023 Budget Resolution - October
Transfers Between Functions

Federal Grants Fund

Function	Description	Expense Increase	Expense Decrease
5100	Regular Instructional Services	225,342	
5300	Alternative Programs and Services		61,790
5800	School-Based Support Services	1,861,414	
6500	Operational Support Services		2,024,974
8100	Payments to Other Governmental Units	8	
		<u>2,086,764</u>	<u>2,086,764</u>

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

**Gaston County Schools
Changes in Appropriations**

**2022-2023 Budget Resolution - October
Transfers Between Functions**

Restricted Grants Fund

Function	Description	Expense Increase	Expense Decrease
6500	Operational Support Services		2,380
6600	Financial and Human Resource Services	2,380	
		<u>2,380</u>	<u>2,380</u>

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

**Gaston County Schools
Changes in Appropriations**

**2022-2023 Budget Resolution - October
Proposed Expenditures and Sources of Revenue**

State Public School Fund

#	Function	Description	Expense Increase (Decrease)	Revenue Increase (Decrease)
1	3100	Revenue - State Public School Fund		425,429
	5100	Regular Instructional Services	425,429	
		This amendment budgets additional funds for the Career Technical Education- Program Support allotment - Allotment Revision #18- FY23 (PRC0014)		
2	3100	Revenue - State Public School Fund		95,270
	5400	School Leadership Services	95,270	
		This amendment adjusts the Principal and Other Teacher Performance allotment - Allotment Revision #18 FY23 (PRC0048)		
3	3100	Revenue - State Public School Fund		145,327
	5400	School Leadership Services	145,327	
		This amendment adjusts the Assistant Principal Interns-MSA Students allotment - Allotment Revision #10 FY23 (PRC0067)		
4	3100	Revenue - State Public School Fund		573,639
	6400	Technology Support Services	573,639	
		This amendment adjusts the School Connectivity allotment - Allotment Revision #14 FY23 (PRC0073)		
5	3100	Revenue - State Public School Fund		100,824
	6500	Operational Support Services	100,824	
		This amendment adjusts the Transportation Reserve Fund for Homeless allotment - Allotment Revision #10 FY23 (PRC0081)		
6	3100	Revenue - State Public School Fund		5,000
	5800	School-Based Support Services	5,000	
		This amendment adjusts the Feminine Hygiene Grant allotment - Allotment Revision #15 FY23 (PRC0088)		
Total State Public School Fund Amendments			1,345,489	1,345,489

Gaston County Schools
Changes in Appropriations

2022-2023 Budget Resolution - October
Proposed Expenditures and Sources of Revenue

Federal Current Expense Fund

#	Function	Description	Expense	Revenue
			Increase (Decrease)	Increase (Decrease)
1	3600	Federal Revenue		65,794
	5300	Alternative Programs and Services	62,930	
	8100	Payments to Other Governmental Units	2,864	
	This amendment budgets funds for the Homeless Grant - FY23 (PRC0026)			
2	3600	Federal Revenue		348,168
	5300	Alternative Programs and Services	284,845	
	5880	School-Based Support Services	1,833	
	6300	Alternative Programs and Services - Support and Development Ser	34,738	
	6500	Operational Support Services	10,505	
	8100	Payments to Other Governmental Units	16,245	
	This amendment budgets funds for the 21st Century Community Learning (ASPIRE) Grant - FY23 (PRC0110)			
3	3600	Federal Revenue		500,000
	5300	Alternative Programs and Services	483,024	
	8100	Payments to Other Governmental Units	16,976	
	This amendment budgets funds for the ESEA Title I School Improvement Grant - FY23 (PRC0115)			
4	3600	Federal Revenue		152,280
	5800	School-Based Support Services	152,280	
	This amendment budgets funds for the ARP ESSER III STEM Pilot Program Grant - FY23 (PRC0196)			
Total Local Current Expense Fund Account			1,066,241	1,066,241

**Gaston County Schools
Changes in Appropriations**

**2022-2023 Budget Resolution - October
Proposed Expenditures and Sources of Revenue**

Restricted Grants Fund

#	Function	Description	Expense Increase (Decrease)	Revenue Increase (Decrease)
1	4800	Local Sources - Restricted		285
	6600	Financial and Human Resource Services	285	
		This amendment budgets the Central Office Administration funds for FY23 (PRC0002)		
2	4800	Local Sources - Restricted		11,653
	6600	Financial and Human Resource Services	11,653	
		This amendment budgets the Non-Instructional Support Personnel funds for FY23 (PRC0003)		
3	4800	Local Sources - Restricted		349,575
	6600	Financial and Human Resource Services	349,575	
		This amendment budgets the Summer Reading Camps funds for FY23 (PRC0016)		
4	4800	Local Sources - Restricted		54,486
	6600	Financial and Human Resource Services	54,486	
		This amendment budgets the School Resource Officers funds for FY23 (PRC0020)		
5	4800	Local Sources - Restricted		9,227
	6600	Financial and Human Resource Services	9,227	
		This amendment budgets the Education Workforce and Innovation Program funds for FY23 (PRC0039)		
6	4800	Local Sources - Restricted		2,179
	6600	Financial and Human Resource Services	2,179	
		This amendment budgets the Education Workforce CTE funds for FY23 (PRC0079)		
7	4800	Local Sources - Restricted		336,700
	5300	Alternative Programs and Services	257,913	
	5800	School-Based Support Services	500	
	6300	Alternative Programs and Services - Support and Development Services	28,723	
	6500	Operational Support Services	36,064	
	8100	Payments to Other Governmental Units	13,500	
		This amendment budgets the 21st Century Community Learning (ASPIRE) grant for FY23 (PRC0110)		

Restricted Grants Fund

#	Function	Description	Expense Increase (Decrease)	Revenue Increase (Decrease)
8	4800	Local Sources - Restricted		910,000
	5100	Regular Instructional Services	910,000	
		This amendment budgets the Administrative Training Partnership Program (Gardner Webb) Grant funds for FY23 (PRC0360)		
9	4800	Local Sources - Restricted		275,790
	5100	Regular Instructional Services	141,083	
	6100	Support and Development Services	104,441	
	8100	Payments to Other Governmental Units	30,266	
		This amendment budgets the Building on Success Grant funds for FY23 (PRC0375)		
10	3200	Local Sources - Restricted		400,000
	5300	Alternative Programs and Services	400,000	
		This amendment budgets the North Carolina Prek Grant funds for FY23 (PRC0413)		
11	4800	Local Sources - Restricted		400
	6100	Support and Development Services	400	
		This amendment budgets the Staff Development funds for FY23 (PRC0549)		
12	4800	Local Sources - Restricted		91,967
	6500	Operational Support Services	91,967	
		This amendment budgets the Local Transportation funds for FY23 (PRC706)		
13	4800	Local Sources - Restricted		9,383
	6500	Operational Support Services	2,391	
	6600	Financial and Human Resource Services	6,991	
		This amendment budgets the Insurance Claims funds for FY23 (PRC840)		
14	4800	Local Sources - Restricted		700
	6500	Operational Support Services	700	
		This amendment budgets the Facilities Remembrance funds for FY23 (PRC885)		
			2,452,346	2,452,346

Total Restricted Grants Fund Amendments

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 11/21/2022

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
11-21-22	None				

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 11/21/2022

Agenda Item Title/Topic: Board Policy Updates

Type of Item: ☒ Consent ☒ Action ☐ Information

Main Points:

Recent changes in the law and State Board of Education Policies, and general maintenance of policies upon review by staff, require revisions to Gaston County Policies. Drafts of policies were presented to the Board at their November 14, 2022 Instruction and Curriculum and Operations meetings. They were also placed on the GCS website.

See attached for complete list of policies to be adopted/revised.

Fiscal Implications:

None

Recommendation:

Board of Education approval of proposed policy updates.

Policy Implications:

Board of Education Policies will be updated.

Strategic Goal Alignment:

Other: Policy or Gen Statute. See above.

Submitted by: Sonya C. McGraw

Department: Legal

<u>GCS Policy #</u>	<u>Policy Title</u>	<u>Adopt</u>	<u>Revise</u>
2140	Code of Ethics for School Board Members		x
2170	Board Member Opportunities for Development		x
3220	Technology in the Educational Program		x
3420	Student Promotion and Accountability		x
3450	Graduation Requirements		x
3470	Student Records		x
3480	Attendance		x
3530	Student Wellness		x
3610	Extracurricular Activities and Student Organizations		x
4100	Age Requirements for Initial Entry		x
4110	Immunization and Health Requirements for School Admission		x
4140	Discretionary Admission		x
4176	Children of Military Families		x
4180	Assignment to Classes		x
4200	School Safety		x
4220	Student Insurance Program		x
4240	Child Abuse and Related Threats to Child Safety		x
4300	Student Behavior Policies		x
6130	Administering Medicines to Students		x
6220	Operation of School Nutrition Services		x
7130	Licensure		x
7510	Leave		x
7730	Personnel Files		x

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 11/21/2022

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: 11/21/22

Agenda Item Title/Topic: National Inventors Hall of Fame (NIHF)

Type of Item: ☒ Consent ☒ Action ☐ Information

Main Points:

The National Inventors Hall of Fame (NIHF) is an innovative STEM education program. This program will provide engaging activities and experiences for the students attending the 21st Century A.S.P.I.R.E afterschool program.

Through creative, hands-on challenges, children build STEM competency and problem-solving skills while finding inspiration from real-world inventors. Invention education leverages children's natural inclination to create and guides them through the act of invention to build the mindset skills they need to navigate life. The Invention Project is the key to bringing this transformative approach to learning into the classroom. Students will have four modules to complete during the school year. Students will take home their finished product.

Fiscal Implications:

Total Cost of contract \$115,240.

Recommendation:

Approve contract for National Inventors Hall of Fame to be utilized at the four A.S.P.I.R.E. afterschool sites.

Policy Implications:

N/A

Strategic Goal Alignment:

Goal 2. Every member of our diverse population has the opportunity for individualized instruction.

Submitted by: Cynthia Reynolds,
Director of Federal Programs

Department: Academic Services

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 11/21/2022

Agenda Item Title/Topic: Student Imaging and Destruction of Records

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

Main Points:

Scribbles Software and Advanced Imaging Systems merged in October 2017 to become Scribble Services, LLC. Scribble Services, LLC collects, images, and stores records for Gaston County Schools.

The Office of Student Assignment would like to destroy Exceptional Children's (EC) records as outlined by state and local policies (local policy: 3470). Information about the destruction of these records will be shared in local newspapers, on Channel 21, and on the GCS website. Notification to impacted families will be widespread to ensure opportunities for records to be collected.

Fiscal Implications:

\$30,000

Recommendation:

Allow Student Assignment to destroy EC records.

Policy Implications:

Policy: 3470

Strategic Goal Alignment:

Other: Policy or Gen Statute. See above.

Submitted by: Terri Surbeck,
Director of Student Assignment

Department: Academic Services

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 11/21/2022

Agenda Item Title/Topic: Tutored by Teachers (TbT)
High Dosage Virtual Tutoring

Type of Item: ☒ Consent ☒ Action ☐ Information

Main Points:

Tutored by Teachers (TbT) is a learning platform created to close learning gaps. High dosage virtual tutoring provides personalized instruction for students in groups of no more than five students three days per week. Tutors are experienced, licensed teachers who will remain consistent for the duration of the school year in order to build relationships and provide continuity for students and schools. Gaston County Schools will use the program at specific, low-performing schools for students in grades 3-8 and high school Math I.

Fiscal Implications:

Utilize ESSER II funding
1 year contract not to exceed \$907,500

Recommendation:

Approve instructional resource to support personalized learning.

Policy Implications:

N/A

Strategic Goal Alignment:

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

Submitted by: Chris Bennett,
Executive Director of Middle School Instruction

Department: Academic Services

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 11/21/2022

Agenda Item Title/Topic: School Improvement Plans (SIP)

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 SIPs for each school. SIT members were elected. SITs developed SIPs based on two school focus areas after reflecting upon data for their school. Each school developed four SMART goals that aligned to the state and district goals. Each goal contains action steps, implementation team, data collection for measurement, monitoring schedule, compliance statements, and professional development plan. Plans are reviewed and monitored by Administration, Academics, and Leadership Development.

Fiscal Implications:

None

Recommendation:

Approval of the individual School Improvement Plans

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: 11/21/2022

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 twenty-four Low Performing Schools – Bessemer City Central Elementary, Carr Elementary, Chapel Grove Elementary, Costner Elementary, Gardner Park Elementary, H.H. Beam Elementary, Kiser Elementary, Lingerfeldt Elementary, Pleasant Ridge Elementary, Robinson Elementary, Sadler Elementary, Sherwood Elementary, Tryon Elementary, W.B. Beam Intermediate, Woodhill Elementary, Bessemer City Middle, Grier Middle, Holbrook Middle, W.C. Friday Middle, York Chester Middle, Bessemer City High, Hunter Huss High, North Gaston High and Gaston Virtual Academy.

The state requires these schools to utilize NCStar for their SIP. They were provided 12 key indicators that the SIT team was to assess. District Coaches then provide feedback to goals and strategies.

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: 11/21/2022

Agenda Item Title/Topic: Oracle Operational Support

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

Main Points:

In 2016, the General Assembly passed School Business Systems Modernization legislation which required NC school systems to modernize their software systems. Gaston County Schools (GCS) selected CherryRoad Technologies to convert our existing systems to the Oracle Cloud. GCS converted its accounting, finance, purchasing and accounts payable systems to Oracle on July 1, 2021 and we converted our HR and payroll systems to Oracle on January 1, 2022. The initial costs of converting to Oracle were covered by the state. However, we continue to need additional support to assist with the efficient operation of the new software. As a result, we have engaged Oracle Advanced Customer (OAC) Support, CherryRoad Technologies and True Ingenuity to provide operational support in the areas of payroll processing, onboarding new employees, accounting support, custom reports, HR support, etc. We will continue to need outside operational support for the remainder of 2022 and through 2023 to improve the efficiency of the new Oracle Cloud system.

Fiscal Implications:

The cost of operational support is contingent on the number of days or hours of support provided by the vendors. The hourly rates range from \$125 to \$160. DPI has agreed to provide funding for up to \$25,000 of support from OAC. Local funds would be used to cover any other operational support.

Recommendation:

The Operations Committee recommends approval of continued operational support through 2023. The total cost will vary by vendor depending on the hours used during the contract period.

Policy Implications:

SL 2017-57 Section 7.16(a) Improve Education Financial and Information Transparency

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: 11/21/2022

Agenda Item Title/Topic: Student Chromebook Purchases

Type of Item: ☒ Consent ☒ Action ☐ Information

Main Points:

1. The FCC's Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF) provides funding for the purchase of student devices up to \$400 per device. Gaston County Schools has been awarded additional ECF funding. The funding will be used to purchase 1,900 Lenovo 300e Touchscreen Chromebooks for student use in kindergarten and 1st grade. These Chromebooks will be used to meet additional needs during the 2022-2023 school year and for our refresh for the 2023-2024 school year.
2. Each year new Chromebooks must be purchased for students in 2nd, 6th, and 9th grade to maintain our refresh cycle. We estimate needing 7,400 Chromebooks based on the Principals Monthly Report for month two. These Chromebooks will be distributed to schools based on the enrollment of rising 2nd, 6th, and 9th grade students for the 2023-2024 school year.

Fiscal Implications:

1. Gaston County Schools has been awarded \$813,200 in Emergency Connectivity Funds. The ECF will fund up to \$400 per device. Since the purchase price per device is less than \$400, Gaston County Schools will not have to allocate any existing funds for this purchase.
2. Gaston County Schools will use \$2,061,862 from the ESSER budget to purchase 7,400 Chromebooks for students in grades 2nd, 6th, and 9th for the 2023-2024 school year.

Recommendation:

The Operations Committee recommends approval of the purchase of student Chromebooks as described above.

Policy Implications:

Policy Code: 3220 Technology in the Educational Program

Strategic Goal Alignment:

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

Submitted by: Aaron W. Slutsky, Chief Technology Officer

Department: TSS

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 11/21/2022

Agenda Item Title/Topic: Network Equipment Purchases

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

Main Points:

The FCC's E-Rate Category 2 program provides funding for internal connections needed for broadband connectivity within schools. This includes network switches, wireless access points, cabling, and battery backups. Public School Units receive a discount based on the number of applications for the free and reduced priced meals in the USDA's National School Lunch and School Breakfast Program. As a result, Gaston County Schools receives a discount of 80%. In addition, the State of North Carolina provides Gaston County Schools with funding for the 20% undiscounted amount. This equipment will be used to upgrade the wired and wireless network at approximately 15 sites.

Fiscal Implications:

Gaston County Schools applied for \$2,417,088 in E-Rate Category 2 funds. The Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) has committed to fund \$1,933,670 of this request. The North Carolina Department of Public Instruction has committed to fund the remaining \$483,418 to pay for the undiscounted share of the equipment.

Recommendation:

The Operations Committee recommends approval of the purchase of new network equipment for 15 sites

Policy Implications:

Policy Code: 3220 Technology in the Educational Program

Strategic Goal Alignment:

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

Submitted by: Aaron W. Slutsky, Chief Technology Officer

Department: TSS

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 11/21/2022

Agenda Item Title/Topic: Classroom LED PC Upgrades

Type of Item: ☒ Consent ☒ Action ☐ Information

Main Points:

Each of the 2,010 classrooms in Gaston County Schools has an LED TV installed that is used for instructional purposes. A variety of computers or Chromebooks have been installed to use with the LED TVs. Many of the existing computers are older and will need to be removed at the end of the 2022-2023 school year. We would like to standardize the devices connected to each LED TV. We propose updating the existing computers to an HP Mini desktop in each of the classrooms.

Fiscal Implications:

Gaston County Schools will use \$1,363,001 from the ESSER budget to fund the purchase of 2,010 HP Pro Mini 400 desktops.

Recommendation:

The Operations Committee recommends the approval of the purchase of classroom LED PCs

Policy Implications:

Policy Code: 3220 Technology in the Educational Program

Strategic Goal Alignment:

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

Submitted by: Aaron W. Slutsky, Chief Technology Officer

Department: TSS

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 11/21/2022

Agenda Item Title/Topic: Lightspeed Systems Renewal

Type of Item: ☒ Consent ☒ Action ☐ Information

Main Points:

Lightspeed Systems is the hardware and software that GCS currently uses to filter our Internet access. Internet filtering is necessary to remain compliant with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA).

Fiscal Implications:

The cost of renewing the Lightspeed Systems is \$173,340. This amount is a line item in the current TSS operational budget.

Recommendation:

The Operations Committee recommends approval of the renewal of the Lightspeed Systems hardware and software.

Policy Implications:

3226 Internet Safety

Strategic Goal Alignment:

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

Submitted by: Aaron W. Slutsky, Chief Technology Officer

Department: TSS

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 11/21/2022

Agenda Item Title/Topic: Rader Center Audio-Visual Upgrade

Type of Item: ☒ Consent ☒ Action ☐ Information

Main Points:

The Rader Staff Development Center hosts quality professional learning opportunities that meet the needs of all Gaston County Schools employees. Additionally, the Rader Staff Development Center also hosts training for educators from the surrounding region. The audio-visual equipment in the main room at the Rader Staff Development Center will be upgraded. The new system will provide an LED Direct View Video Wall at the front of the room for the audience to view. A ceiling mounted TV will be used as a "confidence" monitor, which will duplicate what is seen on the 16 inch display. A camera will be mounted to enable video conferencing. In addition, a lapel microphone and handheld microphone will be available to provide audio for the video conferencing. Ceiling speakers will be installed along with an assisted listening system.

Fiscal Implications:

The purchase and installation of this system will cost \$113,959. In addition, Gaston County Schools will be responsible for upgrading the power supply to the video wall, equipment location, and TV location.

Recommendation:

The Operations Committee recommends the approval of the purchase and installation of the audio-visual equipment at the Rader Staff Development Center.

Policy Implications:

None

Strategic Goal Alignment:

None

Submitted by: Aaron W. Slutsky, Chief Technology Officer

Department: TSS

Last Name	First Name	Category	School
Abbott	Terri	Hire	North Belmont Elementary School - 468
Adams	Lakeisha	Rehire an Employee	York Chester Middle School - 526
Adams	Shasta	Hire	Elementary Instruction - 003
Addis	Kailey	Hire	Brookside Elementary School - 340
Alfaro	Anniston	Resignation	W.C. Friday Middle School - 514
Alpeter	Matthew	Hire	Grier Middle School - 408
Ashe	Joshua	Hire	H.H. Beam Elementary School - 492
Baxter	Jeffery	Hire	Bessemer City Middle School - 436
Bradley	Jennifer	Resignation	North Gaston High School - 470
Brady	Stacy	Resignation	Pinewood Elementary School - 478
Brewer	Susan	Promotion	McAdenville Elementary School - 448
Brookshire	Jodi	Promotion	Finance and Operations - 002
Bryant	Bobbi	Rehire an Employee	John Chavis Middle School - 431
Busshart	Dawn	Hire	Ashbrook High School - 310
Caldwell	DeCarlos	Hire	Hunter Huss High School - 428
Camp	Lance	Promotion	Grier Middle School - 408
Chambers	Kedra	Hire	School Nutrition - 007
Christensen	Nancy	Transfer	Finance and Operations - 002
Christopher	Sydney	Resignation	Brookside Elementary School - 340
Clemmer	Tommy	Resignation	Stuart W. Cramer High School - 378
Cohen	Arthur	Resignation	Technology Support Services - 014
Cooper	Benita	Transfer	Finance and Operations - 002
Craig	Carolyn	Resignation	Woodhill Elementary School - 520
Cranke	Margarita	Resignation	Warlick Academy - 372
Crawford	Michael	Resignation	Warlick Academy - 372
Crisp	Teresa	Rehire an Employee	Brookside Elementary School - 340
Cuthbertson	Sheba	Hire	Lingerfeldt Elementary School - 438
Cuthbertson	Susan	Transfer	School Nutrition - 007
Davidson	Kassandra	Transfer	Pleasant Ridge Elementary School - 480
Davis	Katherine	Rehire an Employee	W.C. Friday Middle School - 514
Deese	Courtney	Resignation	Kiser Elementary School - 432
Diaz	Yunia	Hire	School Nutrition - 007
Dixon	Terence	Hire	Facilities - 004
Dreweatt	Dan	Resignation	Department for Exceptional Children - 004
Durkee	Kate	Rehire an Employee	Department for Exceptional Children - 004
Edwin	Kelly	Hire	South Point High School - 494
Ensley	Amber	Transfer	School Nutrition - 007
Farmer	Lori	Hire	Facilities - 004
Farris	Anthony	Resignation	Facilities - 004
Fincher	Kelly	Rehire an Employee	Transportation - 009
Gensler	Mary	Hire	Stuart W. Cramer High School - 378
Ghent	Daniel	Resignation	Forestview High School - 396
Glenn	Eddie	Resignation	Ashbrook High School - 310
Goble	Staci	Transfer	H.H. Beam Elementary School - 492
Good	Rosemond	Rehire an Employee	Bessemer City Central School - 332
Gorczynski	Michelle	Transfer	School Nutrition - 007
Gray	Remyan	Hire	Mount Holly Middle School - 456

Last Name	First Name	Category	School
Gregory	Shannon	Demotion	Robinson Elementary School - 488
Grier	Demario	Hire	Stuart W. Cramer High School - 378
Hair	Amber	Hire	Pinewood Elementary School - 478
Hall	Christopher	Transfer	Finance and Operations - 002
Hall	Ysatis	Hire	Woodhill Elementary School - 520
Hamby	Toni	Resignation	Bessemer City High School - 336
Hamrick	Jake	Transfer	Facilities - 004
Hart	Glenda	Retirement	Student Support Services - 012
Hernandez	Jasshina	Promotion	ESL
Hilderbrand	Rena	Resignation	Highland School of Technology - 418
Hindman	Michael	Hire	H.H. Beam Elementary School - 492
Hollis	Robert	Resignation	North Gaston High School - 470
Houk	Jane	Hire	Forestview High School - 396
Hoyle	James	Hire	North Belmont Elementary School - 468
Hunt	Samaria	Hire	Mount Holly Middle School - 456
Husar	Teofil	Resignation	Hunter Huss High School - 428
Huskins	Jonathan	Hire	Facilities - 004
Jenkins	Kayla	Hire	School Nutrition - 007
Jennings	Richard	Hire	Stanley Middle School - 500
Karup	Kinsey	Resignation	Forestview High School - 396
Kee	Georgia	Hire	School Nutrition - 007
Leach	Erica	Hire	Stanley Middle School - 500
Leach	William	Hire	Technology Support Services - 014
Long	Tiffany	Hire	School Nutrition - 007
Mackey	Keyona	Hire	Hunter Huss High School - 428
Malone	Laurna	Resignation	Southwest Middle School - 498
Mayhue	Tonya	Promotion	Transportation - 009
Mbongue-Muna	Prosper	Resignation	Bessemer City High School - 336
McKinney	Abigale	Hire	New Hope Elementary School - 464
Metcalf	Kristin	Transfer	School Nutrition - 007
Middlebrooks	Temika	Transfer	Academic Services - 021
Middleton	Mackenzie	Hire	Facilities - 004
Mills	Brenda	Hire	School Nutrition - 007
Moore	Antonio	Hire	Holbrook Middle School - 426
Morgan	Starla	Resignation	Lingerfeldt Elementary School - 438
Nelson	Karen	Resignation	Grier Middle School - 408
Newman	Derrick	Hire	Stanley Middle School - 500
Nolan	Tasia	Hire	Ashbrook High School - 310
Parker	Shelby	Resignation	South Point High School - 494
Parkman	Bobbie	Transfer	School Nutrition - 007
Payne	Chasidy	Hire	School Nutrition - 007
Pearson	Mary	Resignation	Edward D. Sadler Jr. Elem. School - 392
Perez Cardoso	Shenna	Hire	School Nutrition - 007
Perl	Debra	Resignation	Ashbrook High School - 310
Peterson	Jaimie	Resignation	Grier Middle School - 408
Petruska	Kaitlin	Transfer	Lingerfeldt Elementary School - 438
Powell	Otis	Resignation	Highland School of Technology - 418

Last Name	First Name	Category	School
Price	Bailee	Resignation	W. Blaine Beam Intermediate School - 339
Putnam	Fallyn	Resignation	Department for Exceptional Children - 004
Rhyne	Jacqueline	Resignation	H.H. Beam Elementary School - 492
Rice	Tracy	Hire	Woodhill Elementary School - 520
Roberts	Miata	Demotion	Bessemer City High School - 336
Rodden, Jr.	Wayne	Hire	Facilities - 004
Rogers	Jerry	Rehire an Employee	Academic Services - 021
Roseboro	Clarissa	Resignation	W.C. Friday Middle School - 514
Roseboro	Toni	Promotion	Grier Middle School - 408
Rothwell	Joseph	Resignation	W.C. Friday Middle School - 514
Ruscett	Ariel	Resignation	Forestview High School - 396
Seay	Travis	Resignation	Ashbrook High School - 310
Shires	Ashley	Hire	School Nutrition - 007
Shuler	Valerie	Resignation	Bessemer City High School - 336
Smith	Jimmy	Hire	Woodhill Elementary School - 520
Smith	Laura	Transfer	Human Resources - 006
Solis	Karen	Resignation	Holbrook Middle School - 426
Solomon	Michael	Rehire an Employee	W. Blaine Beam Intermediate School - 339
Staples	Daniel	Hire	Facilities - 004
Stephens	Hilary	Promotion	Mount Holly Middle School - 456
Still	Kaitlin	Resignation	Pinewood Elementary School - 478
Thomas	Ayllissa	Hire	School Nutrition - 007
Thomas	Jessica	Hire	Stanley Middle School - 500
Thorn	Jessica	Resignation	York Chester Middle School - 526
Thornburg	Robert	Hire	Bessemer City Central School - 332
Thornburg	Tammy	Resignation	Gaston Early College High School - 337
Tinkler	Christie	Promotion	School Nutrition - 007
Toure	Chinatti	Resignation	Ida Rankin Elementary School - 482
Tran	Tommy	Hire	Brookside Elementary School - 340
Valdez	Wilberto	Resignation	Stuart W. Cramer High School - 378
Valiquette	Abigail	Hire	Gardner Park Elementary School - 400
Wallace	Maranda	Hire	Bessemer City Middle School - 436
Wally	Ada	Hire	Sherwood Elementary School - 490
Washington	Tiffany	Transfer	York Chester Middle School - 526
Watson	Cynthia	Rehire an Employee	School Nutrition - 007
White	Tondra	Hire	Ashbrook High School - 310
Whitlock	Satchel	Hire	Grier Middle School - 408
Wilkins	Laquesha	Hire	Grier Middle School - 408
Wilson	Helen	Hire	School Nutrition - 007
Woolard	Donna	Transfer	School Nutrition - 007
Workman	Glenda	Resignation	School Nutrition - 007
Wright	Steve	Hire	Stuart W. Cramer High School - 378
Yarboro	Celena	Resignation	Warlick Academy - 372
Yon	Gwendolyn	Hire	School Nutrition - 007
Young	David	Hire	Bessemer City Middle School - 436