

**Gaston County Schools  
Board of Education  
Monday, August 15, 2022  
Meeting 5:30 p.m.**

**MINUTES**

The Gaston County Board of Education met in a regular session on Monday, August 15, 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, Kevin Collier, Justin Davis, Steve Hall, Lee Dedmon, Dot Guthrie, Robbie Lovelace and Brent Moore.

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 5:31 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. Brent Moore; seconded by Mr. Steve Hall; motion carried unanimously. (9-0)

**Good News – Information**

Superintendent Booker recognized Darryl Gash of Sherwood Elementary, Teresa Brooks of Cramerton Middle, Teresa Fincher of Webb Street School and Lamar Gardin of Highland School of Technology. Each of these bus drivers were recognized as the “best of the best” in Gaston County Schools and presented with the Tracy Lea Calhoun Award. In Gaston County, this award is given at each school level: elementary school, middle school, high school and also at Webb Street. The honor goes to school bus drivers who have made a significant contribution to school bus safety.

Mr. Jeff Ramsey presented a Certificate of Recognition to each bus driver.

Superintendent Booker recognized Kathryn Eisel, a content teacher at H.H. Beam Elementary. Over Memorial Day weekend, Ms. Eisel and 49 other educators were invited to “the happiest place on earth” for the Disney Imagination Campus 50 Teachers Celebration. Applicants had to share how creativity and imagination are demonstrated in their classrooms on a regular basis.

Ms. Dot Cherry presented a Certificate of Recognition to Ms. Eisel.

Superintendent Booker recognized Sean Gettys, Webb Street teacher. Mr. Gettys was named a Hyundai Hometown Hero winner by WCNC Charlotte. As a winner, he was presented with a brand new Hyundai Santa Fe.

Mrs. Dot Guthrie presented a Certificate of Recognition to Mr. Gettys.

### **Public Expression – Information**

No one signed up for Public Expression.

### **Approval/Correction of Minutes**

The Board considered Approval/Correction of Minutes – Action

Motion to adopt minutes of June 20, 2022 (Special Meeting) and June 20, 2022 (Regular Meeting) as presented was made by Mr. Steve Hall; seconded by Ms. Dot Cherry; motion carried unanimously. (9-0)

### **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)

### **Back-to-School Update – Information**

Chairman Ramsey recognized Mr. Todd Hagans who presented a PowerPoint on Back-to-School Update.

(View PowerPoint)

### **COVID-19 Update - Information**

Chairman Ramsey recognized Dr. Jill Payne who presented a PowerPoint on COVID-19 Update.

(View PowerPoint)

### **Exam Exemption Procedure - Information**

Chairman Ramsey recognized Dr. Cristi Bostic who presented a PowerPoint on Exam Exemption Procedure.

(View PowerPoint)

### **Summer Projects Update – Information**

Chairman Ramsey recognized Dr. Morgen Houchard who presented a PowerPoint on Auxiliary Services Projects Update.

(View PowerPoint)

### **Official Depository Designation - Action**

Chairman Ramsey recognized Mr. Gary Hoskins who reviewed the official depository designation as required by G.S. §115C-444(a).

### **Motion**

The Motion was made by Mr. Steve Hall; seconded by Mr. Lee Dedmon that the Board

#### **Approve Official Depositories for Each School/Department**

A vote was taken and motion to approve the item as presented carried unanimously. (9-0)

### **Appointment of School Treasurers - Action**

Chairman Ramsey recognized Mr. Gary Hoskins who reviewed the appointment of school treasurers as required by G.S. §115C-448(a).

### **Motion**

The Motion was made by Mr. Lee Dedmon; seconded by Mr. Steve Hall that the Board

#### **Approve Treasurers for Each School**

A vote was taken and motion to approve the item as presented carried unanimously. (9-0)

### **Adoption of 2022-2023 GCS Budget Resolution - Action**

Chairman Ramsey recognized Mr. Gary Hoskins who presented a PowerPoint on the 2022-2023 Budget Resolution.

### **Motion**

The Motion was made by Ms. Dot Cherry; seconded by Mr. Brent Moore that the Board

#### **Approve the 2022-2023 GCS Budget Resolution**

A vote was taken and motion to approve the item as presented carried unanimously. (9-0)

(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. Board Policy Updates
- E. Contracts
  - CherryRoad Operational Support

- Gaggle and Lightspeed Safety Management Solutions
- GCSTECH22-23 Microcomputers and Peripherals RFP
- VoIP
- WAN
- Cellular Telephone
- 2021-2022 Contract Amendment — Floyd Foster Transport (FTS)
- Contract Transportation — Floyd Foster Transport (FTS)
- 2021-2022 Contact Amendment — Conexion Mobility
- Contract Transportation — Conexion Mobility
- Contract Transportation — Carolina Specialty Transport
- Contract Transportation — American Alternative Transportation
- Driver Education — Contract Addendum
- Landscaping/Lawn Services for Cherryville Area Schools
- LED Lighting Replacement — Warlick Academy
- Town of Dallas Right-of-Way

Motion to adopt the Consent Agenda as presented was made by Ms. Dot Cherry; seconded by Mr. Lee Dedmon motion carried unanimously. (9-0)

### **Superintendent's Comments**

Superintendent Booker reported that Wednesday is the first day for most of our schools but the Gaston Early College High School and Gaston Early College of Medical Science are already back in session. Their first day was Tuesday, August 9.

Superintendent Booker reported we held our Back-To-School Convocation on Friday, August 12 in a hybrid format.

Superintendent Booker reported that we have staff vacancies in a number of areas. We continue to recruit and hire.

Superintendent Booker thanked employees for the work that has been done over the summer and over the past several weeks to get ready for the start of school.

Chairman Ramsey wished a "Happy Birthday" to Mr. Steve Hall and Chairman Ramsey also had a birthday.

### **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. Kevin Collier; seconded by Mr. Justin Davis; motion carried unanimously. (9-0)

The Board went into Closed Session at 6:46 p.m.

Chairman Ramsey requested a brief break at 6:46 p.m.; meeting resumed at 6:55 p.m.

The Board returned to Open Session at 7:54 p.m.

**Motion**

The Motion was made by Ms. Dot Cherry; seconded by Mr. Lee Dedmon that the Board  
**Award a two-year Assistant Principal contract for the following:**

- Gina Hille
- Andrew Howard
- Deidre Johnson
- Heather Parrish
- Jaimie Peterson
- Nicole Sparrow

This ratifies the motion from the June 20, 2022 Board Meeting giving authority to Superintendent Booker to hire any additional principals and/or assistant principals.

A vote was taken and motion to approve the item as presented carried unanimously. (9-0)

**Motion**

The Motion was made by Ms. Dot Cherry; seconded by Mr. Lee Dedmon that the Board  
**Award a one-year Assistant Principal contract for the following:**

- Joe Burns

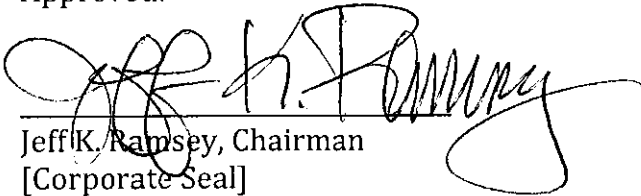
A vote was taken and motion to approve the item as presented carried unanimously. (9-0)

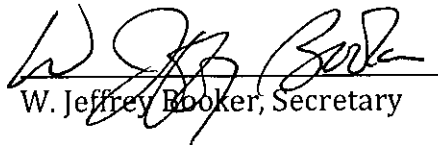
**Adjournment**

All business having been conducted, Motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Kevin Collier; seconded by Mr. Lee Dedmon motion carried unanimously. (9-0)

The Board Meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

Approved:

  
 Jeff K. Ramsey, Chairman  
 [Corporate Seal]

  
 W. Jeffrey Booker, Secretary

Date Approved: 9/19/2022