

Gaston County Board of Education
Operations Committee Meeting Minutes
4:00 pm – March 7, 2022
943 Osceola Street – Board Room

1. **Call to Order (Chairman Dedmon)** – Meeting was called to order at 4:00pm. Present: Lee Dedmon, Kevin Collier, Dot Cherry, and Brent Moore. GCS Staff present: Gary Hoskins, Morgen Houchard, Aaron Slutsky, Todd Hagans, Paul Nault, Chip Irby, and Sierra Wray.
2. **Review and Approve Minutes from Previous Meeting (Chairman Dedmon)** – Brent Moore made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 7, 2022 meeting. Dot Cherry seconded. Minutes were approved.
3. **Architect Presentation – Grier Middle School (Morgen Houchard)** - The committee was updated on the planning process and conceptual elevations for Grier Middle School. LS3P will soon be providing a schematic design.
4. **Calendar Discussion – 2022-2023 (Morgen Houchard)** - Our Chief Communications Officer shared with us an overview of the calendar survey for 2022-2023 school year. The survey was available on the district website, and was sent to parents, students, employees, and community members through our Parentlink communication system. A total of 2,103 people completed the survey. Sample D, the calendar with the first semester ending before winter break, received the most support on the survey with 70% saying they supported it. This item appeared on the agenda.
5. **Auxiliary Services Update (Morgen Houchard)** - Our Executive Director of Auxiliary Services, Dr. Morgen Houchard, gave us an update on all Auxiliary Services Departments (Transportation, School Nutrition, Facilities and Safety and Security). He also informed us that all departments were assessing and preparing for the recent fuel price increases.
6. **Senate Bill 105: Supplemental Funding (Gary Hoskins)** - Associate Superintendent and Chief Financial Officer, Gary Hoskins, informed us that in November 2021 the General Assembly approved the budget. PRC 071 contained money that the Board needs to designate the state teacher/certified instructional support supplement received. The Committee recommends approval from the Board. This item appeared on the agenda.

7. **SBSM Update (Gary Hoskins)** - Mr. Hoskins also stated that representatives from CherryRoad have been in Gaston County helping with tasks and issues related to the system. There have been several off cycle checks run with manual checks being written when needed. Finance and HR departments continue to work hard to ensure issues are resolved.
8. **Review/Discuss Change Orders (Gary Hoskins)** – There were no change orders to review/discuss.
9. **Contract Review**
 - a. **Playground Mulch for Pre-K and Elementary Schools**

The Committee reviewed and recommends for approval the Playground Mulch for Pre-K and Elementary Schools contract. The contract appeared on the Consent Agenda.
10. **Meeting Dates for fiscal year 2022 (Chairman Dedmon)**

April 4th May 2nd June 6th
(All meeting are scheduled to be at 4:00pm in the Central Office Board Room, unless otherwise noted)
11. **Other Business and Discussion (Chairman Dedmon)** - In other business, we learned that we may receive a grant for \$169,000 to be used for athletic facilities. Funds will be used for middle school athletic improvements on fields, benches, and other needs as identified. Currently we are working with the county on a New Construction Needs Based Grant and possible funding for infrastructure to connect water to Tryon and Chapel Grove Elementary Schools.
12. **Adjourn (Chairman Dedmon)** – Meeting was adjourned at 5:27pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sierra H. Wray