

Gaston County Board of Education
Operations Committee Meeting Minutes
4:00 pm – September 12, 2022
943 Osceola Street – Board Room

- 1. Call to Order (Kevin Collier)** – Meeting was called to order at 4:02pm. Present: Kevin Collier, Dot Cherry, Brent Moore, and Jeff Ramsey. GCS Staff Present: Gary Hoskins, Aaron Slutsky, Kecia Coln, Chip Irby, Michael Nance, Sierra Wray, Melissa Balknight, Derrick Jackson, Jill Payne, Cristi Bostic, and Chris Bennett.
- 2. Review and Approve Minutes from Previous Meeting (Kevin Collier)** – Dot Cherry made a motion to approve the minutes from the August 1, 2022 meeting. Brent Moore seconded. Minutes were approved.
- 3. Academic Services Support Plan 2022 – 2023 (Melissa Balknight)** - Executive Directors from Academic Services presented the 2022 – 2023 Support Plan for Elementary, Middle and High schools. Academic curriculum facilitators will help each school with pre and post assessments to help track students growth. Data centers will be used to help with progress monitoring. Accountability guides will be provided for administrators to ensure the plan is working effectively.
- 4. SRO Pay Update (Michael Nance)** - Our Director of Safety and Security, Michael Nance, informed us that the School Resource Officer (SRO) hourly rate of pay will be increasing by \$5. Currently, they are paid \$30 per hour for during the school day and \$35 per hour for extracurricular events. They will now be paid \$35 per hour during the school day and \$40 per hour for extracurricular events.
- 5. Human Resources Update (Kecia Coln)** - Executive Director of Human Resources, shared with us that the HR department is diligently working on calculating and entering the salary increases for classified employees. This was a payroll function, but with Oracle, it is now a HR task. Vacancies are slowly decreasing. There are approximately 59 teacher vacancies, 23 bus driver vacancies, 49 school nutrition vacancies, 2 human resources vacancies, and 4 finance vacancies.
- 6. Technology Update (Aaron Slutsky)** - Chief Technology Officer, Aaron Slutsky, gave a technology update. The engineers continue to update wiring for the stadiums and gymnasiums so that events and sports are able to be streamed. Technicians moved, prepped, and distributed Chromebooks.
- 7. Insurance Update (Gary Hoskins)** – Associate Superintendent, Gary Hoskins, shared information regarding the district’s insurance policies.

- 8. COVID Retention Bonus Discussion (Gary Hoskins)** - Mr. Hoskins also recommended that the Board approve a COVID retention bonus to qualified employees. This item will appear on the Board's agenda for discussion and approval.
- 9. State Salary Supplement Discussion (Gary Hoskins)** - The Governor signed Senate Bill 105 which provided supplemental funding for teachers and certified instructional support personnel. This item will appear on the board agenda for discussion and approval.
- 10. Review/Discuss Change Orders (Gary Hoskins)** - A change order was submitted for the media center at Mount Holly Middle school. There was a change in the scope for abatement in the amount of \$500.
- 11. Contract Review** – The committee reviewed the following contracts and recommended them for approval. They will appear on the Board's consent agenda at their next meeting.
 - i. Cherryville High School - LED Lighting (Chip Irby)
 - ii. Kiser Elementary School - Roof Replacement (Chip Irby)
 - iii. Pinewood Elementary School - Roof Replacement (Chip Irby)
 - iv. New Hope Elementary School - Paving Project (Chip Irby)
 - v. Cisco SmartNet Renewal (Aaron Slutsky)
 - vi. The Reserves Network (Gary Hoskins)
 - vii. True Ingenuity Consulting, LLC (Gary Hoskins)
- 12. Reminder of the Meeting Schedule for the Remainder of 2022 (Kevin Collier)**
October 3rd, November 14th, December 5th
All meetings will be held at 4:00pm in the Central Office Board Room unless otherwise noted
- 13. Other Business and Discussion (Kevin Collier)** – Chip Irby, our Director of Facilities, informed the Committee that the County was planning to apply for a grant that would improve storm water runoff at the following schools: H.H Beam Elementary, Lowell Elementary, McAdenville Elementary and Page Elementary.
- 14. Adjourn (Kevin Collier)** – Meeting was adjourned at 5:36pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sierra H. Wray