

GASTON COUNTY
BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR WORK SESSION



Shaping Our Future

943 Osceola Street, Gastonia, NC 28054
August 1, 2023
5:30 p.m. Meeting

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 8/1/2023

Agenda Item Title/Topic: Agenda Adoption

Type of Item: ☐ Consent ☒ Action ☐ Information

Main Points:

Consideration of Formal Agenda for Tuesday, August 1, 2023.

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. Stephen C. Laws

Department: Superintendent

GASTON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Jeff K. Ramsey – Chairman

Dot Cherry – Vice Chairman

Josh Crisp, Dallas Township
Lee Dedmon, Gastonia Township
Dot Guthrie, Gastonia Township
Tod Kinlaw, South Point Township



Robbie Lovelace, Cherryville Township
Brent Moore, Crowders Mountain Township
A.M. Stephens, III, Riverbend Township

943 Osceola Street, Gastonia, NC 28054

Tuesday, August 1, 2023

5:30 p.m.

Agenda

Work Session

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- II. Agenda Adoption – Action 1-2
- III. Recognition of Associate Superintendent
- IV. Superintendent Selection Process, North Carolina School Boards
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- V. Board Policy Updates – Information 4-5
- VI. Consent Agenda – Action 6
 Consent Agenda Item (s) will be adopted with a single motion, second
 vote, unless a request for removal from the Consent Agenda is heard from a
 Board Member.
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- VIII. Adjournment

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 8/1/2023

Agenda Item Title/Topic: Superintendent Selection Process, North Carolina School Boards Association

Type of Item: ☐ Consent ☐ Action ☒ Information

Main Points:

The Gaston County Board of Education hired the N.C. School Boards Association to facilitate a nationwide superintendent search process that will select the next superintendent of Gaston County Schools.

An essential part of the superintendent search process is conducting a survey to gain input from stakeholders, including school employees, parents, students, business/civic leaders, and the community about what they would like to see in the next superintendent. The Superintendent Search Survey included questions about the characteristics, experience, knowledge, skills, etc. that the person chosen by the Board of Education to lead the school system should possess.

The deadline to complete the survey was July 17.

Fiscal Implications:

The survey is part of the NCSBA's superintendent search service that has been authorized by the Board of Education.

Recommendation:

NCSBA will analyze, compile, and present the survey data to the Board of Education and will review community and staff input/results of the online surveys. The NCSBA recommends that the Board of Education take the data into consideration when determining who will be selected as the next superintendent of Gaston County Schools.

Policy Implications:

While there are no policy implications, conducting the survey is a standard procedure used during a superintendent search process.

Strategic Goal Alignment:

Other: Policy or Gen Statute. See above.

Submitted by: Todd Hagans **Department:** Communications/Superintendent's Office

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 8/1/2023

Agenda Item Title/Topic: Board Policy Updates

Type of Item: ☐ Consent ☐ Action ☒ Information

Main Points:

Recent changes in state and federal law, State Board of Education policy revisions, and general maintenance of policies upon review by staff require revisions to Gaston County Board of Education policies.

See attached for complete list of policies to be revised. See the GCS website for draft policies.

This matter will come back to the Board for approval at its next meeting.

Fiscal Implications:

None

Recommendation:

Board of Education will review recommended proposed policy revisions.

Policy Implications:

Policies will be revised as approved by the Board of Education.

Strategic Goal Alignment:

Other: Policy or Gen Statute. See above.

Submitted by: Sonya C. McGraw

Department: Legal

2023 PLS Updates
8-01-2023 - Information Only

[illegible]

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 8/1/2023

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. Contracts

- Lawn Maintenance/Landscaping Services – 53 Schools
- Contract Transportation – Conexion Mobility Group
- Contract Transportation – FTS Transport
- Contract Transportation – American Alternative Transportation
- Contract Transportation – Carolina Specialty Transport

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. Stephen C. Laws

Department: Superintendent

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 8/1/2023

Agenda Item Title/Topic: Contracts and Expenditures >\$100,000

Type of Item: ☒ Consent ☒ Action ☐ Information

Main Points:

The attached listing of contracts and expenditures more than \$100,000 was reviewed by staff and recommended for approval by the Board, or are contracts less than \$100,000 but recommended 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: 8/1/2023

Agenda Item Title/Topic: Lawn Maintenance/Landscaping Services – 53 Schools

Type of Item: ☒ Consent ☒ Action ☐ Information

Main Points:

In 2021, the Gaston County Schools Facilities Department bid out the lawn maintenance and landscaping services for our 53 school locations. Previously, the individual schools were responsible for maintaining their grounds. This often resulted in existing school personnel, such as custodians, spending time on grounds maintenance rather than their regular duties. There were 12 lawn care professionals that were awarded bids for the 53 schools for the period of October 2021 through June 2022. In addition, Gaston County Schools was provided with the option of extending the contracts for two additional one-year terms. Last year, we exercised our first option to extend the contracts for July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023. We would like to also extend the option for the final one-year term that will be from July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024. There is no increase in price from any of the vendors from the prior year.

Fiscal Implications:

The annual contracted cost of lawn maintenance and landscaping services for 53 schools is \$1,684,124. A listing of the cost per school by vendor is attached. Vendors will be paid using local funds.

Recommendation:

Approve all lawn maintenance and landscaping services contracts for 2023-2024.

Policy Implications:

Policy Code 9210: Care and Maintenance of Grounds and Outdoor Equipment

Strategic Goal Alignment:

Other: Policy or Gen Statute. See above.

Submitted by: Morgen Houchard, Executive
Director of Auxiliary Services

Department: Auxiliary Services

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Heavner's Lawn & Landscaping

31000	Ashbrook High	\$73,182.00
43000	Page Elem	\$27,510.00
49400	South Point High	\$34,410.00
52600	York Chester	\$38,035.00
		\$173,137.00

Faulk Landscaping

32000	Belmont Central	\$29,435.00
37800	Stuart Cramer	\$54,610.00
		\$84,045.00

Scott's Lawn & Garden

32400	Belmont Middle	\$69,258.00
34000	Brookside Elem	\$35,335.00
39200	Sadler Elem	\$31,129.00
35200	Chapel Grove Elem	\$23,318.00
		\$159,040.00

BMW's Landscaping & Lawn Maintenance

48000	Pleasant Ridge	\$31,314.00
		\$31,314.00

Max Wolfe

42800	Hunter Huss High	\$44,834.00
		\$44,834.00

River's Edge Landscape

48200	Rankin Elem	\$20,128.00
39400	Webb Street	\$43,145.00
		\$63,273.00

Lawns Unlimited

37200	Warlick Acad	\$30,955.00
49000	Sherwood Elem	\$28,545.00
		\$59,500.00

Wise Lawnmower Company

33600	Bessemer City High	\$44,555.00
43600	Bessemer City Mid	\$17,543.00
33200	Bessemer City Centra	\$45,260.00
40800	Grier Mid	\$70,945.00
46400	New Hope Elem	\$22,895.00
39000	N. Gaston High	\$44,046.00
51400	WC Friday Mid	\$28,345.00
		\$273,589.00

Mullis Lawn & Landscaping

34400	Carr Elem	\$18,756.00
37600	Costner Elem	\$18,113.00
34800	Catawba Heights Elen	\$15,465.00
36000	Cherryville High	\$16,246.00
36400	Cherryville Elem	\$21,675.00
43100	Chavis Mid	\$22,560.00
50400	Tryon Elem	\$30,269.00
33900	WB Beam Int	\$17,250.00
		\$160,334.00

Home Turf Lawn & Landscaping

38000	Cramerton Mid	\$36,349.00
44800	McAdenville Elem	\$17,670.00
43200	Kiser Elem	\$34,549.00
49900	Springfield Elem	\$29,032.00
47800	Pinewood Elem	\$24,702.00
46800	N. Belmont Elem	\$27,837.00
45600	Mt Holly Mid	\$39,039.00
50000	Stanley Mid	\$30,604.00
39000	E. Gaston High	\$52,820.00
48800	Robinson Elem	\$44,776.00
42000	Hawks Nest	\$25,096.00
40000	Gardner Park Elem	\$25,290.00
		\$387,764.00

Bobby Sanders Lawn Service

51000	WA Bess Elem	\$22,388.00
39600	Forestview High	\$24,811.00
41800	Highland Tech	\$23,876.00
52000	Woodhill Elem	\$29,756.00
49200	HH Beam Elem	\$28,881.00
43800	Lingerfeldt Elem	\$26,596.00
00000	Forest Heights	\$27,512.00
49800	Southwest Mid	\$27,067.00
		\$210,887.00

The Cramerton Group

42600	Holbrook Mid	\$22,146.00
44000	Lowell Elem	\$14,261.00
		\$36,407.00

\$1,684,124.00

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 8/1/2023

Agenda Item Title/Topic: Contract Transportation – Conexion Mobility Group

Type of Item: ☒ Consent ☒ Action ☐ Information

Main Points:

GCS contracts with several private transportation companies to transport EC students, McKinney-Vento students, students in foster care, and to provide other miscellaneous student transportation services. Our contract with Conexion Mobility Group (“Conexion”) is in the final year of a three-year renewal option. The term for this renewal is July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024.

Fiscal Implications:

The contract with Conexion is estimated to cost \$500,000 this year, which is higher than last year's contracted cost of \$288,000 due to increased student transportation needs. We plan to use state transportation funding to cover the cost of this contract.

Recommendation:

Approve the contract with Conexion to provide student transportation services.

Policy Implications:

Policy Code 6320 – Organization of Student Transportation Services

Strategic Goal Alignment:

Other: Policy or Gen Statute. See above.

Submitted by: Morgen Houchard, Executive
Director of Auxiliary Services

Department: Auxiliary Services

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 8/1/2023

Agenda Item Title/Topic: Contract Transportation – FTS Transport

Type of Item: ☒ Consent ☒ Action ☐ Information

Main Points:

GCS contracts with several private transportation companies to transport EC students, McKinney-Vento students, students in foster care, and to provide other miscellaneous student transportation services. Our contract with FTS Transport, LLC (FTS) is in the final year of a three-year renewal option. The term for this renewal is July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024.

Fiscal Implications:

The contract with FTS is estimated to cost \$500,000 this year which is higher than last year's contracted cost of \$455,000 due to increased student transportation needs. We plan to use state transportation funding to cover the cost of this contract.

Recommendation:

Approve the contract with FTS to provide student transportation services.

Policy Implications:

Policy Code 6320 – Organization of Student Transportation Services

Strategic Goal Alignment:

Other: Policy or Gen Statute. See above.

Submitted by: Morgen Houchard, Executive
Director of Auxiliary Services

Department: Auxiliary Services

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 8/1/2023

Agenda Item Title/Topic: Contract Transportation – American Alternative Transportation

Type of Item: ☒ Consent ☒ Action ☐ Information

Main Points:

GCS contracts with several private transportation companies to transport EC students, McKinney-Vento students, students in foster care, and to provide other miscellaneous student transportation services. Our contract with American Alternative Transportation (AAT) is in the final year of a three-year renewal option. The term for this renewal is July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024.

Fiscal Implications:

The contract with AAT is estimated to cost \$230,000 this year, which is higher than last year's contracted cost of \$225,000 due to increased student transportation needs. We plan to use state transportation funding to cover the cost of this contract.

Recommendation:

Approve the contract with AAT to provide student transportation services.

Policy Implications:

Policy Code 6320 – Organization of student Transportation Services

Strategic Goal Alignment:

Other: Policy or Gen Statute. See above.

Submitted by: Morgen Houchard, Executive Director of Auxiliary Services **Department:** Auxiliary Services

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 8/1/2023

Agenda Item Title/Topic: Contract Transportation – Carolina Specialty Transport

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

Main Points:

GCS contracts with several private transportation companies to transport EC students, McKinney-Vento students, students in foster care, and to provide other miscellaneous student transportation services. Our contract with Carolina Specialty Transport (CST) is in the final year of a three-year renewal option. The term for this renewal is July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024.

Fiscal Implications:

The contract with CST is estimated to cost \$525,000 this year, which is higher than last year's contracted cost of \$500,000 due to increased student transportation needs. We plan to use state transportation funding to cover the cost of this contract.

Recommendation:

Approve the contract with CST to provide student transportation services.

Policy Implications:

Policy 6320 – Organization of Student Transportation Services

Strategic Goal Alignment:

Other: Policy or Gen Statute. See above.

Submitted by: Morgen Houchard, Executive
Director of Auxiliary Services

Department: Auxiliary Services

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 8/1/2023

Agenda Item Title/Topic: Closed Session

Type of Item: ☐ Consent ☐ Action ☒ Information

Main Points:

Closed sessions shall be held when required to permit a public body to act in the public interest as permitted by law.

– 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 lawsuits captioned:

—22-CVS-2828 Greene vs. Golden and The Gaston County Board of Education et al.

—20-CVS-3924 The Gaston County Board of Education vs. Shelco, et al.

—19-CVS-3893 McKinney et al. vs. Goins and The Gaston County Board of Education

—21-CVS-5016 Bostic vs. Phroneberger and The Gaston County Board of Education

—21-CVS-5017 Lukinoff vs. Barber and The Gaston County Board of Education

—21-CVS-5018 Brittain vs. Beason and The Gaston County Board of Education

—21-CVS-5019 Long vs. The Gaston County Board of Education

—23-CVS-812 NCAE et al. vs. The Gaston County Board of Education

—Any other legal matters.

Fiscal Implications:

N/A

Recommendation:

Board to consider information provided in Closed Session in accordance with G.S. §143-318.11.

Policy Implications:

N/A

Strategic Goal Alignment:

Other: Policy or Gen Statute. See above.

Submitted by: Sonya McGraw, Attorney **Department:** Legal/Superintendent's Office