

GASTON COUNTY
BOARD OF EDUCATION
WORK SESSION



Shaping Our Future

Mount Holly Middle
124 South Hawthorne Street
Mount Holly, NC 28120
September 5, 2023
4:30 p.m. Meeting

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 9/5/2023

Agenda Item Title/Topic: Agenda Adoption

Type of Item: ☐ Consent ☒ Action ☐ Information

Main Points:

Consideration of Formal Agenda for Tuesday, September 5, 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 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
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Robbie Lovelace, Cherryville Township
Brent Moore, Crowders Mountain Township
A.M. Stephens, III, Riverbend Township

Mount Holly Middle School
124 South Hawthorne Street, Mount Holly, NC 28120

Tuesday, September 5, 2023

4:30 p.m.

Agenda

Work Session

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Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 9/5/2023

Agenda Item Title/Topic: 2023-2024 Budget Update

Type of Item: ☐ Consent ☐ Action ☒ Information

Main Points:

Our 2023-2024 fiscal year started on July 1, 2023. However, the State has not yet approved their budget for the 2023-2024 fiscal year. As a result, employee pay rates will remain at their current 2022-2023 levels. All employees were notified of this in an email on August 10, 2023 and a video message on August 22, 2023. The General Assembly has indicated that the state budget should be passed in September. After a State budget has been approved, we will make any necessary adjustments to employee pay. Also, we will present a 2023-2024 budget resolution to the Board for review and approval at the next regular Board meeting.

Fiscal Implications:

Provides funding for Gaston County Schools for the 2023-2024 fiscal year.

Recommendation:

N/A

Policy Implications:

Board Policy 8100 – Budget Planning and Adoption

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

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 9/5/2023

Agenda Item Title/Topic: Human Resources Update

Type of Item: ☐ Consent ☐ Action ☒ Information

Main Points:

Dr. Morgen Houchard, Interim Executive Director of Human Resources, will provide an update on current topics impacting Human Resources. These topics include vacancies and recruitment. This is an informational item.

Fiscal Implications:

N/A

Recommendation:

N/A

Policy Implications:

N/A

Strategic Goal Alignment:

N/A

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

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 9/5/2023

Agenda Item Title/Topic: Contract — Kiser Elementary School – Boiler Renovation Amendment

Type of Item: ☐ Consent ☐ Action ☒ Information

Main Points:

In October 2022, the Board of Education awarded a contract to Carolina Air Solutions to renovate the boiler at Kiser Elementary School. This project will improve air quality and air flow at the school. The original scope will be expanded to provide additional electrical and piping to support the new controls for the building automation system.

Fiscal Implications:

The original Carolina Air Solutions, Inc. contract will increase from \$286,557 to \$325,582, an increase of \$39,025. We are using ESSER III funds for this project.

Recommendation:

Approve the amendment for the additional electrical and piping to support the new controls for the building automation system for the Kiser Elementary boiler renovation at the September 18, 2023 Board of Education Meeting.

Policy Implications:

Policy Code: 9200 Care and Maintenance of Facilities

Strategic Goal Alignment:

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

Submitted by: Morgen Houchard, Executive
Director of Auxiliary Services

Department: Auxiliary Services

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 9/5/2023

Agenda Item Title/Topic: Contract — Grier Middle School - Commissioning the MEP Systems

Type of Item: ☐ Consent ☐ Action ☒ Information

Main Points:

A Request for Qualifications (RFQ) was advertised for commissioning services for the mechanical, electrical and plumbing (MEP) systems at the new Grier Middle School. Commissioning is a process that checks and documents the design, installation and testing of a building's systems according to the requirements of the owner. Four vendors responded to the RFQ and our internal committee selected Hanson Professional Services, Inc. to provide commissioning services for the MEP systems of the new Grier Middle School.

Fiscal Implications:

Hanson Professional Services, Inc. has submitted a proposal in the amount of \$153,266 to complete the commissioning for the MEP systems at the new Grier Middle School. This will be paid using school bond funds.

Recommendation:

Award Hanson Professional Services, Inc. the contract for commissioning of the MEP systems for the new Grier Middle School at the September 18, 2023 Board of Education Meeting.

Policy Implications:

Policy Code: 9030 Facility Construction

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: 9/5/2023

Agenda Item Title/Topic: Contract —All Pre-K and Elementary Schools —
Playground Mulch

Type of Item: ☐ Consent ☐ Action ☒ Information

Main Points:

All pre-K and elementary school playgrounds are required to have IPEMA certified playground mulch. Playground mulch has to be replaced annually. Also, we may have to add some additional mulch during the year to maintain the required depth.

Fiscal Implications:

Mulch Life has provided a quote to provide all pre-K and elementary school playgrounds with IPEMA certified mulch for \$105,662. Mulch Life has the ability to provide the mulch on all the playgrounds and to provide the paperwork showing that the mulch is IPEMA certified. This will be paid using local capital outlay funds.

Recommendation:

Award the contract to Mulch Life to install the IPEMA certified mulch at all our pre-K and elementary school playgrounds at the September 18, 2023 Board of Education Meeting.

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

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 9/5/2023

Agenda Item Title/Topic: Contract — FinalSite Website and Communication Platform

Type of Item: ☐ Consent ☐ Action ☒ Information

Main Points:

Blackboard, which has been acquired by FinalSite, is the current platform for the Gaston County Schools website and mass communications. We have been working with FinalSite to update and enhance our existing website. As a part of this enhancement, we would enter into a three year contract which would include the core communications platform, setup and creative services, a premium support plan and a mobile communication app for mass notifications.

Fiscal Implications:

A three-year contract with FinalSite for \$155,804 per year. Last year we paid Blackboard \$201,000 for similar services. These funds will be paid from local proceeds.

Recommendation:

Approve a three year contract with FinalSite to provide website and communications for Gaston County Schools at the September 18, 2023 Board of Education Meeting.

Policy Implications:

N/A

Strategic Goal Alignment:

Goal 4. Every school has up-to-date technology to support teaching and learning.

Submitted by: Gary F. Hoskins, CFO and
Associate Superintendent
for Finance and Operations

Department: Finance

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 9/5/2023

Agenda Item Title/Topic: CTE Update

Type of Item: ☐ Consent ☐ Action ☒ Information

Main Points:

Present information associated with implementing a CTE Career Exploration Center at Forest Heights.

Fiscal Implications:

CTE grant funds and Daimler grant funds would be utilized.

Recommendation:

Support the implementation of a CTE Career Exploration Center at Forest Heights.

Policy Implications:

Other: Policy or General Statute.

Strategic Goal Alignment:

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

Submitted by: Brett Buchanan, CTE Director

Department: Academic Services

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 9/5/2023

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