

Gaston County Schools
Board of Education
Monday, April 17, 2023
Meeting 5:30 p.m.

MINUTES

The Gaston County Board of Education met in a regular session on Monday, April 17, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. in the Board Room, 943 Osceola Street, Gastonia, NC. 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 Ramsey, Vice Chairman Dot Cherry, Josh Crisp, Lee Dedmon, Dot Guthrie, Tod Kinlaw, Robbie Lovelace, Brent Moore, and A.M. Stephens III.

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 5:30 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 Ms. Dot Cherry; seconded by Mr. Brent Moore; motion carried unanimously. (9-0)

Good News – Information

Superintendent Booker recognized Taylon Singleton, physical education teacher at Lingerfeldt Elementary. Mr. Singleton has been nominated by the First Tee – Greater Charlotte Chapter as the organization's Teacher of the Year. Mr. Singleton saw the benefits of the First Tee golf program and secured a grant to bring the curriculum to the school. Through the First Tee program, students learn how to play golf and they also learn about life skills and character education. LIV professional golfer and Forestview High School graduate Harold Varner visited Lingerfeldt to talk with the students about the importance of doing well in school, and he gave the children a few expert golf tips.

Mr. A.M. Stephens III presented a Certificate of Recognition plaque to Mr. Singleton.

Superintendent Booker recognized students from W.B. Beam Intermediate that recently won first place nationwide in the American Radio Relay League competition. The following members of the Falcon Radio Club were recognized:

Kaydence Price
Jacob Greene
Madelyn Canipe

Levi Reep
Ava Shelton
Kayla Mull
Anya Tonkonog
Isabela Berryann
Bristol Clinton

In February, the school's amateur radio club made 281 contacts or "QSOs" as they're referred to in amateur radio and scored 41,307 points. This achievement earned the students recognition from the national association for amateur radio. Through a generous donation from the Donald and Carla Beam Family Foundation, the Falcon Radio Club was created several years ago to promote an interest in the amateur radio hobby among students and community members.

Mr. A.M. Stephens III presented a Certificate of Recognition Certificate to all students and a Recognition Plaque to the school.

Superintendent Booker recognized Samantha Franke, an eighth grader at Stanley Middle. Samantha's project titled "Rain, Rain, Come Our Way" placed second in the engineering category at the North Carolina State Science and Engineering Fair. In addition, she was nominated for the Thermos Fisher Scientific Junior Innovators Award. Her project also placed third in the engineering category at the North Carolina Student Academy of Science state competition held at the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics.

Mr. A.M. Stephens III presented a Certificate of Recognition Certificate to Samantha.

Superintendent Booker recognized students who qualified to represent Stanley Middle at the Carowinds Engineering Day. Last month, Stanley Middle held a Roller Coaster Engineering Fair with the top three teams advancing. Students who earned the opportunity to compete at Carowinds on Friday, April 28, 2023 are:

Evan Murphy
Jack Scholz
Dillon Castro
Payton Lennox
Diksha Sharma
Lillyan Wall
Martha Arana

The students were tasked with designing a roller coaster and were judged based on technical merit, theme, creativity and most exciting to ride. Carowinds will award a \$250 prize to the winning design.

Mr. A.M. Stephens III presented a Certificate of Recognition Certificate to all students.

Public Expression – Information

Bryan Hoffman
704 S. 15th Street
Bessemer City, NC 28016
RE: Payroll

Approval/Correction of Minutes

The Board considered Approval/Correction of Minutes – Action

Motion to adopt minutes of March 20, 2023 (Regular Meeting) and March 28, 2023 (Joint BOE/BOC Meeting) as presented was made by Mr. Lee Dedmon; seconded by Mr. A.M. Stephens III; motion carried unanimously. (9-0)

Operations Committee Report – Information

Brent Moore is chair of the committee and members are Dot Cherry, Lee Dedmon and A.M. Stephens III. 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 Josh Crisp, Tod Kinlaw 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)

Teacher Appreciation Week Proclamation - Action

Chairman Ramsey recognized Mr. Todd Hagans who presented the Teacher Appreciation Week Proclamation for consideration.

Motion

The Motion was made by Mr. Josh Crisp; seconded by Mr. Tod Kinlaw that the Board

Approve Teacher Appreciation Week Proclamation

(View Proclamation)

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

Mr. Steven Loudon, W.C. Friday Middle, 2022-2023 Gaston County Teacher of the Year accepted the Teacher Appreciation Week Proclamation.

Chairman Jeff Ramsey presented the Teacher Appreciation Week Proclamation to Mr. Loudon.

National School Library Month Proclamation – Action

Chairman Moore recognized Mr. Todd Hagans who presented the National School Library Month Proclamation for consideration.

Pepie Jones, Director of Library/Media Services; Leah Ammons, New Hope Elementary the current Library Media Specialist of the Year and Leslie Mitchell Library/Media Specialist at Woodhill Elementary accepted the National School Library Month Proclamation. Ms. Mitchell designed a quilt made from book covers that she shared with the Board of Education.

Motion

The Motion was made by Mrs. Dot Guthrie; seconded by Ms. Dot Cherry that the Board
Approve National School Library Month Proclamation

(View Proclamation)

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

Mrs. Dot Guthrie presented the National School Library Month Proclamation to Ms. Jones, Ms. Ammons and Ms. Mitchell.

Acceptance of the June 30, 2022 Annual Comprehensive Financial Reports (ACFR) – Action

Chairman Ramsey recognized Mr. Gary Hoskins who introduced Mr. Vince Quinn with Anderson Smith and Wike PLLC, Certified Public Accountants. Mr. Quinn reviewed the June 30, 2022 Annual Comprehensive Financial Reports. Discussion followed.

Motion

Motion was made by Mr. Brent Moore; seconded by Ms. Dot Cherry that the Board
Approve the Acceptance of the June 30, 2022 Comprehensive Financial Reports (ACFR)

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

Acceptance of the June 30, 2022 Compliance Report – Action

Chairman Ramsey recognized Mr. Gary Hoskins who introduced Mr. Vince Quinn with Anderson Smith and Wike PLLC, Certified Public Accountants. Mr. Quinn reviewed the June 30, 2022 Compliance Report. Discussion followed.

(View Compliance Report)

Motion

Motion was made by Mr. A.M. Stephens; seconded by Mr. Josh Crisp that the Board
Approve the Acceptance of the June 30, 2022 Compliance Reports

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

Annual Engagement Letter with Independent Auditors - Action

Chairman Ramsey recognized Mr. Gary Hoskins who gave an update on the Annual Engagement Letter from Anderson Smith & Wike PLLC.

Motion

Motion was made by Mr. Lee Dedmon seconded by Mr. A.M. Stephens III that the Board
Approve Contract and Annual Engagement Letter with Anderson Smith and Wike PLLC to perform audit services for the fiscal year 2023-2024

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

2023-2024 Gaston County Schools Budget Request – Action

Chairman Ramsey recognized Mr. Gary Hoskins who presented a PowerPoint on Gaston County Schools Budget Request FY 2023-2024.

(View PowerPoint)

Motion

The Motion was made by Mr. A.M. Stephens III; seconded by Mr. Josh Crisp that the Board
Approve the 2023-2024 Gaston County Schools Budget Request

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

School Business Systems Modernization Update – Information

Chairman Ramsey recognized Mr. Gary Hoskins who presented a PowerPoint on School Business Systems Modernization Update. Discussion followed.

(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. Contracts
 - Academic Services – Instructional Resources 2023-2024
 - Microsoft Software Agreement
 - Transportation Department – CalAmp/Synovia Services
 - North Gaston High School – Stadium Drainage Project
 - Ida Rankin Elementary School – Retaining Wall
 - East Gaston High School – Boiler and Chiller Replacement
 - Cisco DNA Center Network Management and Automation Purchase
 - Cisco Next-Generation Firewall Purchase

Motion to adopt the Consent Agenda as presented was made by Mr. Lee Dedmon; seconded by Mr. A.M. Stephens III motion carried unanimously. (9-0)

Superintendent's Comments

Superintendent Booker reported we want to focus on the last six weeks of school that will include getting ready for end-of-year tests, awards day and other recognition programs and celebrating the Class of 2023.

Superintendent Booker mentioned several upcoming recognition programs:

“Do The Right Thing” recognition ceremony is Thursday, April 27, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. at Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden. Following the “Do The Right Thing” ceremony at 6:00 p.m., we will have our Star Teacher Star Student Awards that features high school seniors recognizing a teacher that had a significant influence on their academic career.

Our springtime Job Fair will be held Friday, April 28, 2023 at Catawba Heights Baptist Church in Belmont. The event runs from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. and we are seeking employees in both teaching and non-teaching positions. Applicants interested in attending the job fair may visit the Gaston County Schools website and complete the online registration form.

Tuesday, May 2, 2023 we will have our annual Evening of Excellence Ceremony at 6:00 p.m. at the Gaston Country Club. The Evening of Excellence dinner and program is sponsored by Truist Bank.

Highland School of Technology will present "Grease: The School Edition" on Friday, May 5, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. and Saturday, May 6, 2023 at 2:00 p.m.

The annual "Through An Artist's Eyes" art exhibit runs April 23 through May 20 at Loray Mill. The opening reception is Sunday, April 23, 2023 at 2:00 p.m. and the exhibits features the most outstanding artwork by students in Gaston Count Schools.

Superintendent Booker reminded parents that registration for kindergarten continues and parents can register on the Gaston County Schools website. While kindergarten registration continues throughout the summer, registration for pre-kindergarten ends on Monday, May 1, 2023.

Superintendent Booker announced we are offering a variety of academic and extracurricular activities through our "Camp Gaston" summer enrichment program. Parents are encouraged to register their child as soon as possible for "Camp Gaston".

Chairman Ramsey wished a "Happy Birthday" to Mr. Brent Moore.

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 Ms. Dot Cherry; seconded by Mr. Tod Kinlaw; motion carried unanimously. (9-0)

The Board went into Closed Session at 6:52 p.m.


The Board returned to Open Session at 7:47 p.m.

Adjournment

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

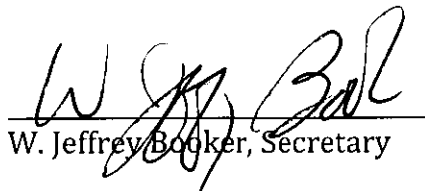
The Board Meeting adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

Approved:


Jeff K. Ramsey, Chairman

[Corporate Seal]

Date Approved: 5/15/2023


W. Jeffrey Booker, Secretary