Gaston County Schools Board of Education Monday, February 20, 2023 Meeting 5:30 p.m.

MINUTES

The Gaston County Board of Education met in a regular session on Monday, February 20, 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 5:31 p.m. and welcomed everyone.

Invocation

Superintendent Booker paused for a "moment of silence and 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 Josh Crowder of South Point High School. Josh was named the recipient of the Michael A. Kahn Community Service Scholastic Scholarship Award. The prestigious award is presented to a high school senior in the Charlotte region who best exemplifies the spirit of community stewardship, academic excellence and accomplishment on the football field. Josh was recognized by the Charlotte Touchdown Club at a ceremony in December. The scholarship is valued at \$40,000 and requires Josh to participate in at least two separate community service projects while contributing a total of 24 hours of service each school year. Also, Josh learned last week that he has been accepted into the United States Military Academy at West Point.

Mr. Tod Kinlaw presented a Certificate of Recognition to Josh.

Superintendent Booker recognized the top five spelling bee winners. Earlier this month, the Gaston County School Spelling Bee was held at Ashbrook High School.

Rex Dover of Belmont Middle School was our spelling bee champion. Rex emerged from a field of 38 students to win the district competition. Rex has earned the opportunity to compete in March at the Carolina Panthers Regional Spelling Bee.

Lawrence Martin of Pleasant Ridge Elementary was the runner-up, Kari Clay of Southwest Middle took hird place, and Cassidy Allen of Bessemer City Central and Harmony Vann of Woodhill Elementary tied for fourth place.

Ms. Dot Cherry and Mr. A.M. Stephens III presented a Certificate of Recognition to each student.

Superintendent Booker recognized the ten schools that led the way in our 2022-2023 fundraising campaign for the United Way of Gaston County. The 2022-2023 total for Gaston County Schools is \$89,409.10, and we want to express our appreciation to everyone who gave a contribution and participated in our fundraising efforts. Cramerton Middle School and Hunter Huss High School both contributed more than \$5,000 each. Below are the top ten fundraising schools:

Cramerton Middle School — principal Kevin Doran and assistant principal Beth Crosby

Hunter Huss High School — principal Bryan Denton and assistant principal and Whitney Hill

Woodhill Elementary School — principal Anarah Henderson and assistant principal Doneen Johnson

Southwest Middle School — principal Glenn Cook

Grier Middle School — principal Amy Holbrook and staff member O'Bryan Williams

H.H. Beam Elementary School — principal Ryan Smith and Deon Kennedy

Forestview High School —assistant principal James Hilburn

North Gaston High School — administration staff unable to attend

Highland School of Technology — administration staff unable to attend

Warlick Academy — principal Lucretia Rice

Dr. Booker expressed appreciation to the central level departments for their contributions and thanked Valerie Yatko, who served again as our districtwide coordinator.

Mrs. Dot Guthrie and Mr. Jeff Ramsey presented a Recognition Plaque to each school.

Public Expression - Information

Elisabeth Haywood 4024 Hereford Lane Dallas, NC 28034 RE: Payroll Issues

Melinda Goddard 801 S. Main Street, Apt. 136 Mt. Holly, NC 28120 RE: Payroll Issues Laura Farmer 672 Easthampton Drive Gastonia, NC 28056 RE: Payroll Issues

Stephanie Best Gaston County RE: Payroll Issues

Approval/Correction of Minutes

The Board considered Approval/Correction of Minutes - Action

Motion to adopt minutes of January 27, 2023 (Regular Meeting) and January 27, 2023 (Board Retreat) as presented was made by Mr. Lee Dedmon; seconded by Mr. Josh Crisp; motion 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)

Gaston County Schools Calendar 2023-2024 - Action

Chairman Ramsey recognized Dr. Kecia Coln who presented a PowerPoint on School Calendar Survey Results 2023-2024. Discussion followed.

Motion

Motion was made by Mr. Josh Crisp; seconded by Mr. Tod Kinlaw that the Board **Approve Calendar "C" as presented for the 2023-2024 school year**

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

(View PowerPoint)

Gaston Early College Calendar 2023-2024 - Action

Chairman Ramsey recognized Dr. Kecia Coln who presented a PowerPoint on Gaston Early College High School Calendar. Discussed followed.

Motion

Motion was made by Mr. Lee. Dedmon seconded by Mrs. Robbie Lovelace that the Board Approve the Gaston Early College Calendar for 2023-2024

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

EOG/EOC Summer School - Information

Chairman Ramsey recognized Dr. Rebekka Powers who presented a PowerPoint on EOG/EOC Summer Testing Program.

(View PowerPoint)

Camp Gaston - Information

Chairman Ramsey recognized Dr. Derrick Jackson who presented a PowerPoint on Summer Camps.

(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. Policy Update Policy 6335/7270 Drug & Alcohol Testing of Commercial Motor Vehicle Operators
- E. Contracts
 - —Forestview High School LED Lighting Replacement

Motion to adopt the Consent Agenda as presented was made by Mr. Lee Dedmon; seconded by Ms. Dot Cherry motion carried unanimously. (9-0)

Superintendent's Comments

Superintendent Booker announced that Lowell Elementary and its business partner Dominion Energy won the "Are You Smarter Than a Gaston County Fifth Grader?" competition on Thursday, February 9, 2023. Tindol Subaru presented a \$12,000 check to the Education Foundation as part of the car manufacturer's "Share the Love" campaign. Proceeds from the competition are used by the Education Foundation to support the Ron L. Ensley grant program for teachers.

Superintendent Booker announced that Courage Kia conducted a promotional campaign and pledged \$200 to Gaston County Schools for each car sold. We received a check in the amount of \$14,400 from the general manager, Mr. Gabe Faria. The money will be used to have a positive impact on our schools and students.

Superintendent Booker announced our Teacher of the Year finalists were announced in January and they are:

Jamie Monk, Highland School of Technology Michael Kaufman, East Gaston High School Lindsay Dickerson Beverly, Forestview High School Joanna Kirk Dotson, Tryon Elementary School Melissa Clements, Belmont Middle School

Superintendent Booker announced that the finalists for Gaston County Principal of the Year have been announced and they are:

Justin Beam, North Belmont Elementary School laime Wallace, Brookside Elementary School 3ryan Denton, Hunter Huss High School Jessica Steiner, Stuart W. Cramer High School Sheila Wyont, Bessemer City High School Our Teacher of the Year and Principal of the Year will be announced during the Evening of Excellence eremony on Tuesday, May 2, 2023.

Superintendent Booker reminded everyone that the deadline to submit a school choice application is Friday, March 3 at 5:00 p.m. Additionally, if you have a child who is eligible for pre-kindergarten or kindergarten for the 2023-2024 school year, registration is currently underway and parents can complete the application process online.

Superintendent Booker announced that our annual RoboGASTON robotics competition will be held on Saturday, March 4 at Forestview High School.

Superintendent Booker announced starting today and continuing through Wednesday, March 15 we have a Gaston County High School Senior Art Show in the Jeanne Rauch Gallery at Gaston College.

Superintendent Booker announced that Thursday, March 9, 2023 is Parent-Teacher Conference Day for our schools. Students will be dismissed early and conferences will be held from 1:00 until 7:00 p.m.

Chairman Ramsey announced that our Committees will meet on Monday, March 6, 2023. Mrs. Dot Guthrie is the chair of the Curriculum & Instruction Committee and Mr. Brent Moore is the chair of the Operations Committee.

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. Brent Moore; motion carried unanimously. (9-0)

The Board went into Closed Session at 7:16 p.m.

The Board returned to Open Session at 8:07 p.m.

Chairman Ramsey announced the Gaston County Schools calendar approved earlier tonight for the 2023-2024 school year is Calendar "C".

Motion

The Motion was made by Ms. Dot Cherry; seconded by Mr. Lee Dedmon that the Board **Award a two-year Assistant Principal contract for the following**:

Erik Terrance Barton, Jr.

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

Adjournment

ll business having been conducted, Motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Lee Dedmon; seconded by Mr. A.M. Stephens III motion carried unanimously. (9-0)

The Board Meeting adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

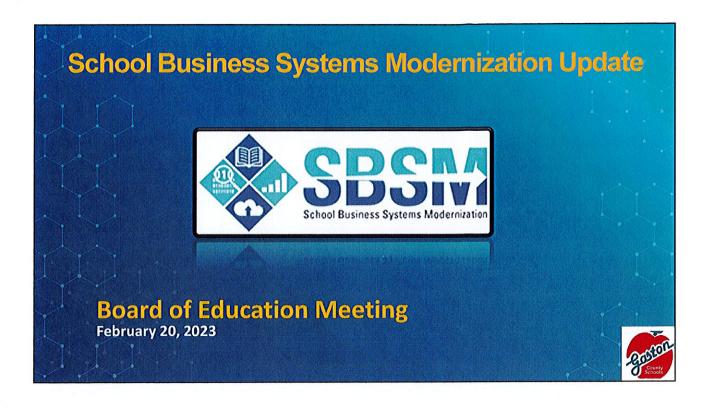
Approved:

Jeff K. Ramsey, Chairman

[Corporate Seal]

W. Jeffpey Booker, Secretary

Date Approved:



Global Payroll Issues Global Payroll Issues Retirement Contributions Progressing Multiple Deductions Progressing Comp Time Pay Rate Progressing EPI Teacher Deductions Corrected ASPIRE Overtime Pay Corrected Longevity Payments Corrected

Global Payroll Issues

Retirement Contributions - Progressing

- NC State Retirement files have been submitted through September / posted through August
- Interest has been posted for 2022 in Orbit
- Empower 401(k) posted through January
- All other retirement plans 457 and 403(b) posted through December

3

Global Payroll Issues

Multiple Deductions - Progressing

- A number of employees had excess deductions taken from their checks in prior pay periods.
- We are working to identify and refund these deductions. We have made solid progress, but there are still a number of outstanding deductions to refund.

Global Payroll Issues

Comp Time Pay Rate - Processing

- The system is currently using the employee's pay rate at the time when comp time is earned.
- The system should be using the pay rate at the time when comp time is used.
- CherryRoad is working to correct this issue and assist us with reimbursement for this discrepancy.

5

Global Payroll Issues

EPI Teacher Deductions - Corrected

- EPI teachers are contract employees, so they are not subject to pay FICA deductions during their first two years, or any retirement contributions. However, we did withhold FICA and retirement from many of these individuals.
- These deductions have been refunded to these employees.

Global Payroll Issues

ASPIRE Overtime Pay - Corrected

- Non-certified employees that work in the afterschool ASPIRE program are currently earning comp time for overtime hours worked.
- These employees should be paid for their overtime worked
- These employees have now been paid for their overtime.

7

Global Payroll Issues

Longevity - Corrected

- No longevity payments were made to employees in July and August.
- The issue was resolved for ongoing longevity payments in September.
- The missing July and August longevity payments have been paid.

Individual Payroll Issues

Individual Issues

In addition to the current global issues, there are individual payroll issues that are unique to each employee. These issues are being reviewed and resolved by the Payroll Department. This is an ongoing process.

9

Individual Payroll Issues

Individual Issues

Incorrect Deductions
Overpayments
Comp Time Pay Rate
Retirement Contributions
Leave Balance Accrual

Current Payroll Issues

Outstanding Issues

1,834 incidents reported January - September

962 employees met with Customer Care Team in October

<u>464</u> employees resolved November – February 498 employee folders in process

11

Form W-2 Distribution

- ADP processes all employee pay slips and has access to all employee pay and tax information
- ADP prepared and distributed about 5,000 employee Form W-2s for 2022 based on funds paid to employees in 2022
- The Form W-2s were mailed to employees on January 28, 2023

Form W-2 Distribution

- We have had to reprint and distribute 115 Form-W-2s to individuals that did not receive their initial Form W-2 from ADP
- The Form W-2s did have the vendor's return address rather than the GCS return address.
- Box 13 "Retirement Plan" was not checked for all qualified employees

13

Form W-2 Distribution

- We are working on filing approximately 30 Form W-2Cs to correct the original Form W-2
- There were 121 known overpayments in 2022.
 Employees that did not repay their overpayment in 2022 had this amount included in their 2022
 Form W-2. Taxes were paid on the overpayment.
- We are currently working with ADP to have the employee Form W-2s available online at online.adp.com



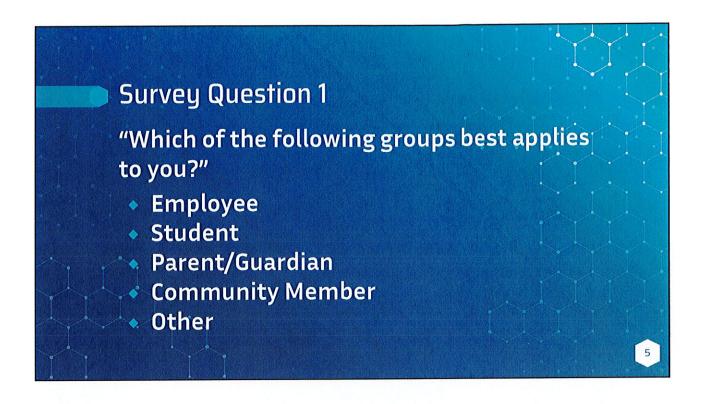
School Calendar Survey Results 2023-2024

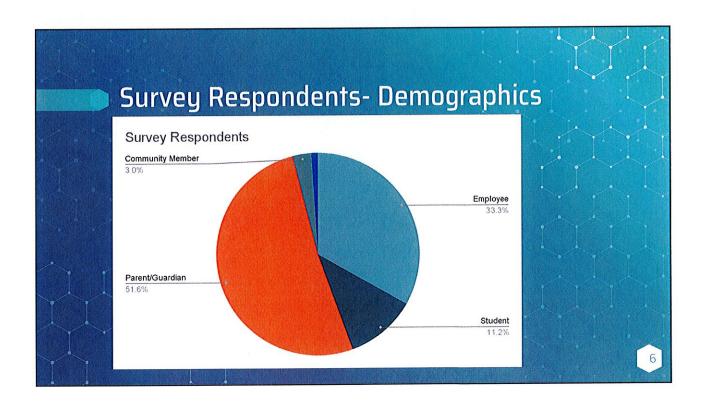


Survey published

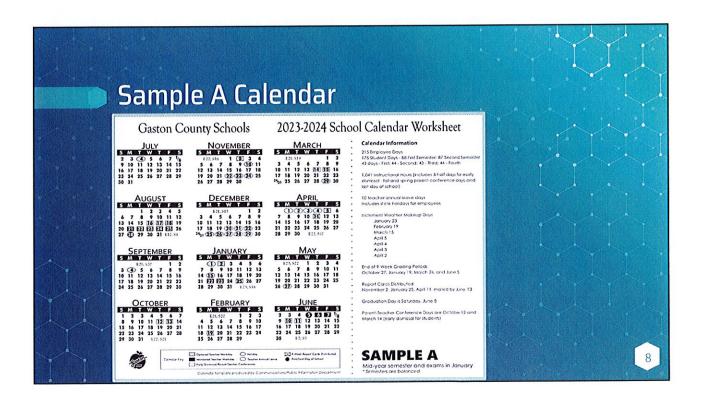
- Survey published on GCS Homepage from January 11, 2023 until January 20, 2023.
- Three draft calendars for review with questions to provide feedback.

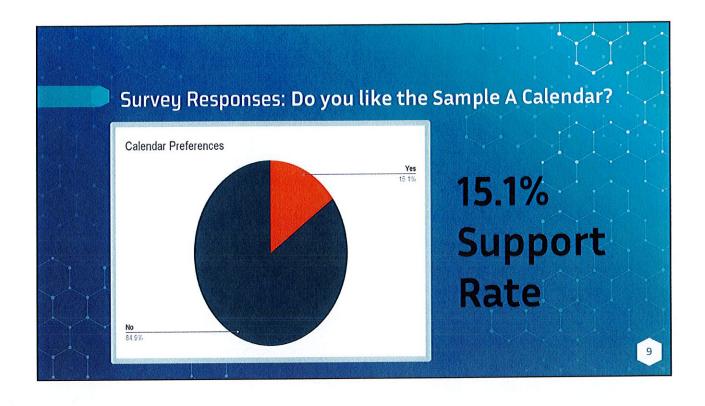
6,018 Survey Respondents

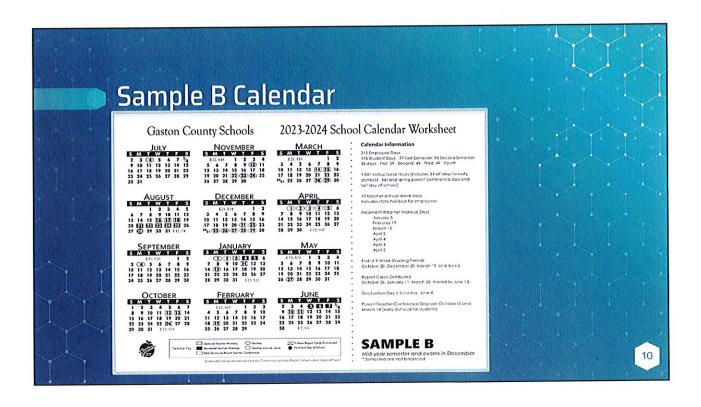


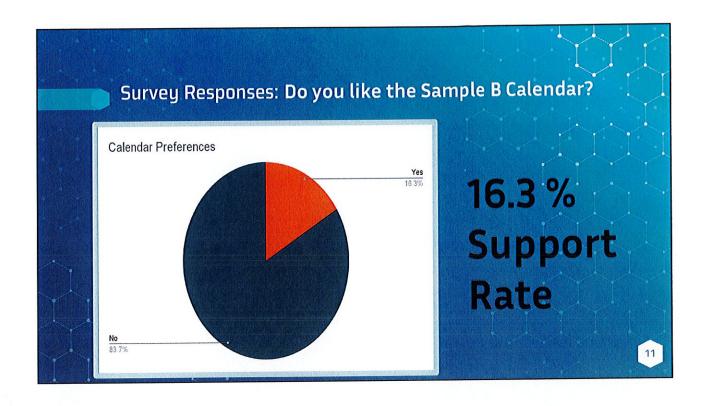


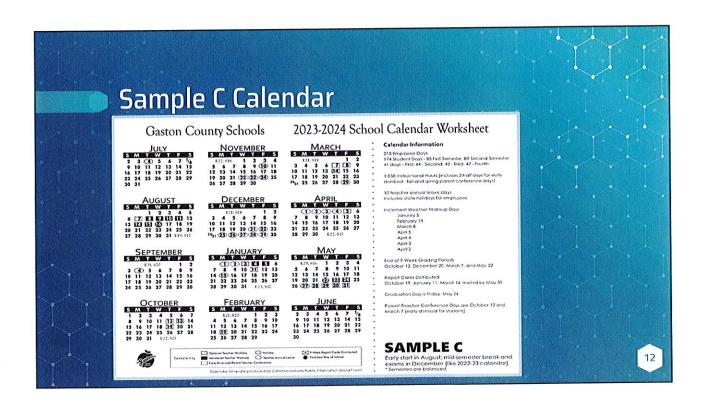


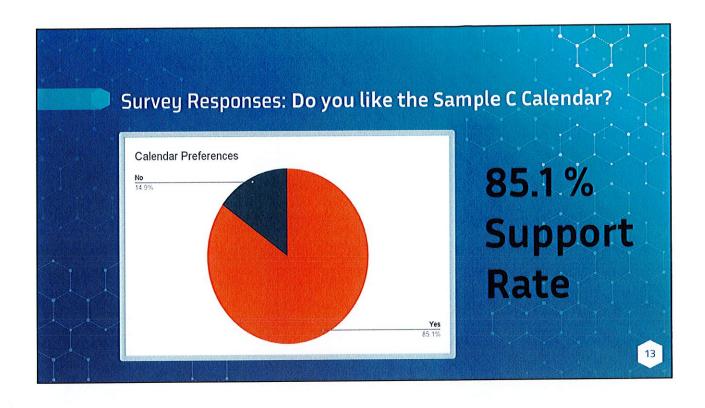


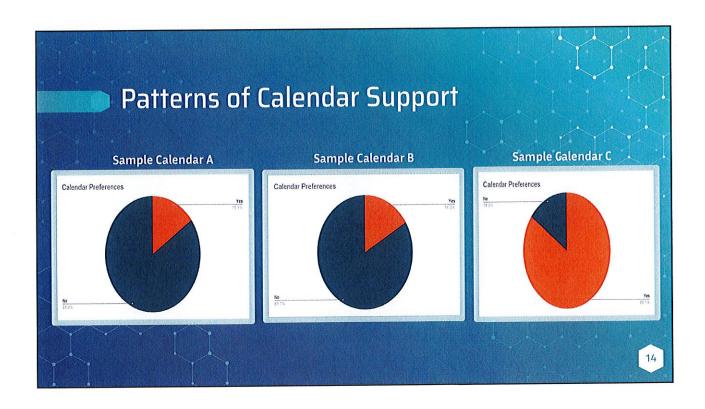


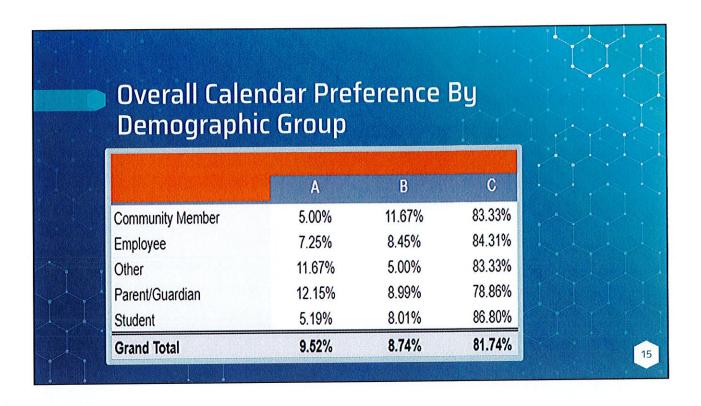


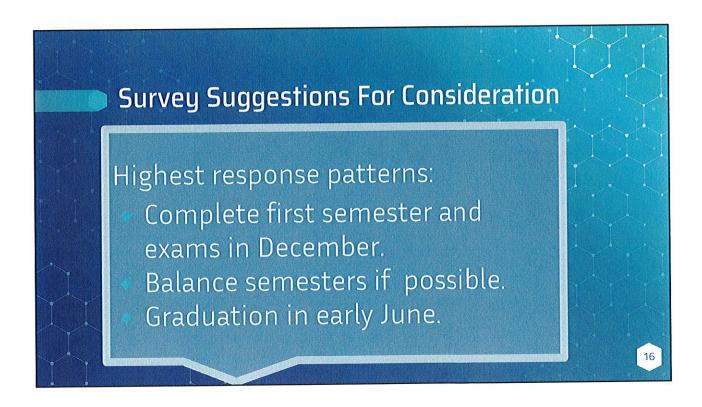


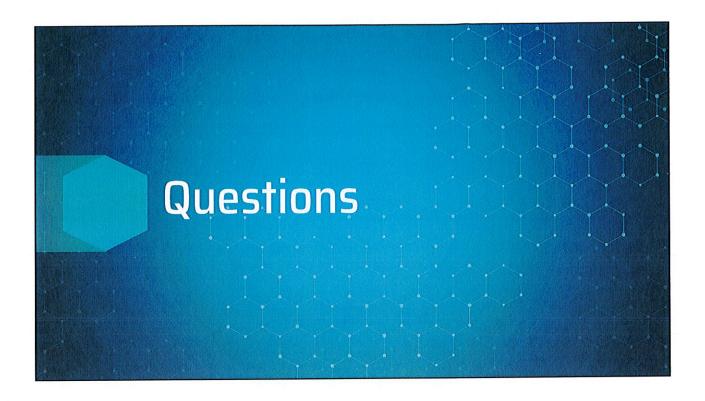


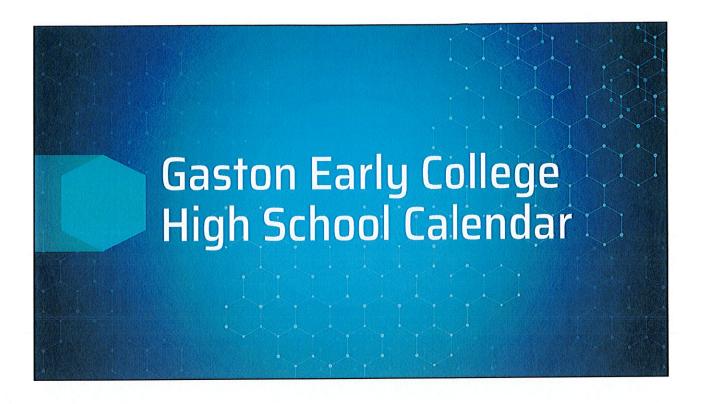


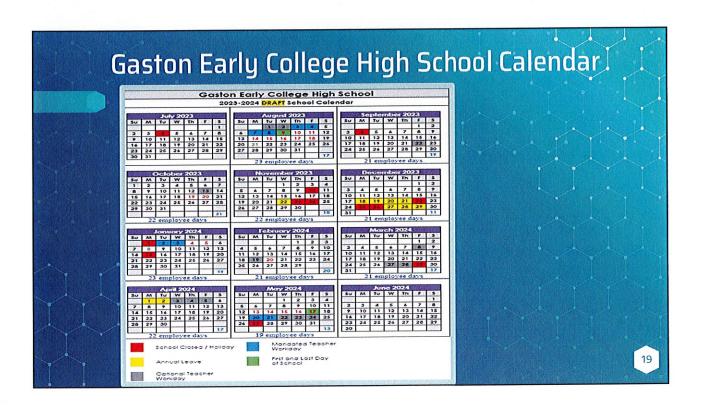


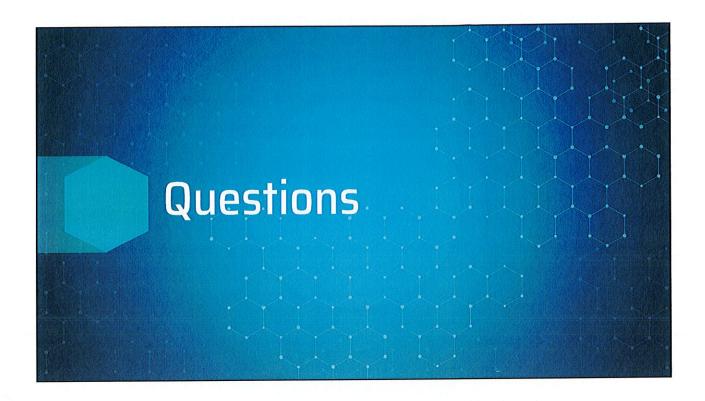








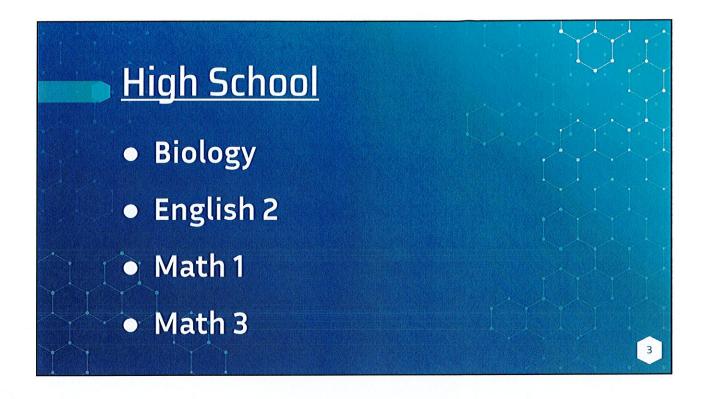






Elementary and Middle Schools

- Reading (3-8)
- Math (3-8)
- Science (5 & 8)



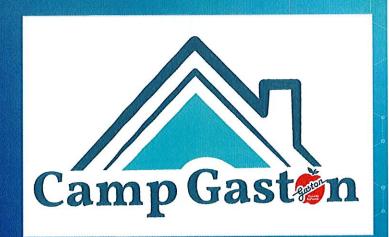




Summer Camp

Board of Education Meeting February 20, 2023

K-12 Camp Gaston Summer 2023 Gaston County Schools



Read to Achieve (RtA)

- Offered as a literacy intervention that shall be offered to any first, second, or third grade student who demonstrates difficulty with reading development
 - Be provided as outlined in the local school administrative unit literacy intervention plan



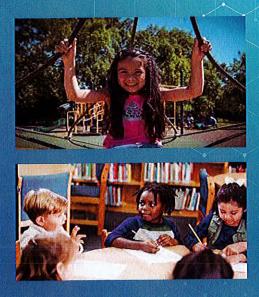
Read to Achieve (RtA)

- Taught by a licensed instructor selected based on demonstrated student outcomes in reading proficiency or improvement.
- 72 hours of reading instruction to yield positive.
 reading outcomes for participants



Elementary Camp Locations

North Belmont Pleasant Ridge Robinson Sadler Sherwood Springfield Tryon



Elementary Camp Locations

A.S.P.I.R.E.

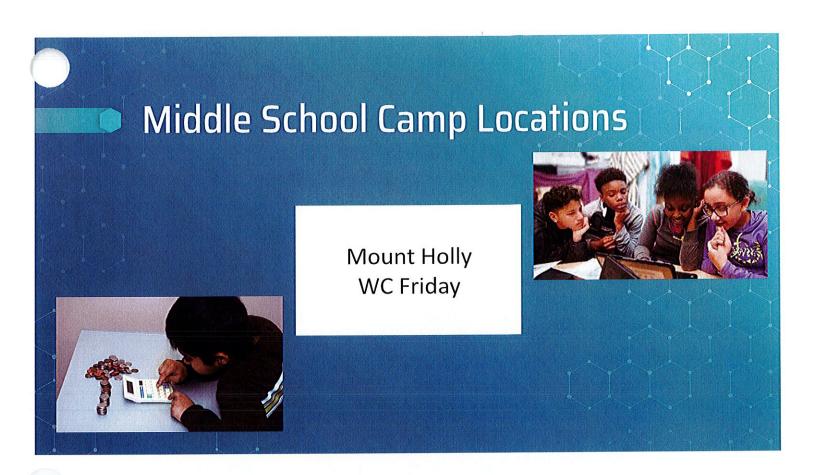
at H. H. Beam

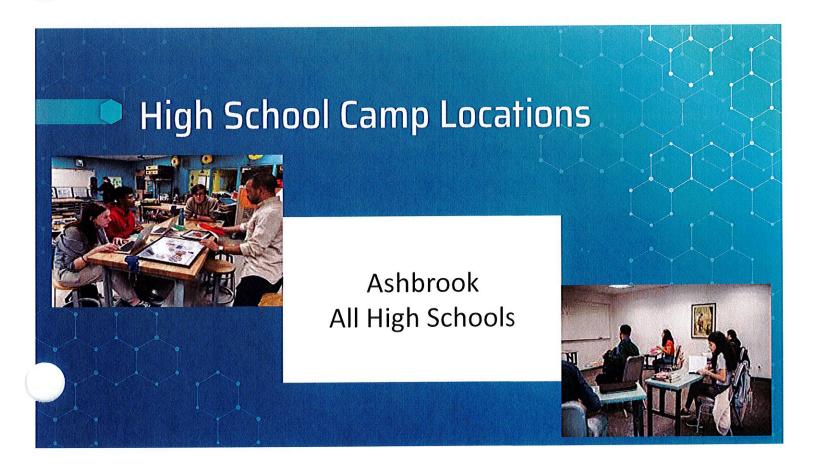
Dates

- June 12 June 29
- July 10 July 27
- Monday Thursday
- 8:00 am 5:00 pm

Participants

- H. H. Beam
- Lingerfeldt
- Pleasant Ridge
- Woodhill





Exceptional Children Camp Locations



AIG Catawba Heights W.C. Friday Ashbrook

> EC Camps Webb Street

Newcomer Camp (ML)
Pleasant Ridge
Mount Holly
Ashbrook



Important Dates

Student Registration Deadline - Friday, May 12



Camp Gaston

/elcome

Camp Gaston Brochure

Message from the Superintendent

Elementary Camps

Middle School Camps

High School Camps

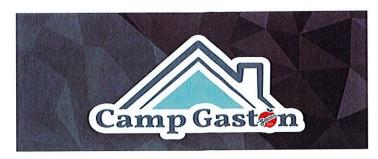
Academically and Intellectually Gifted (AIG) Camps

Exceptional Children Camps

E.S.L. Enrichment Camps

How to Register

Home > Academics > Camp Gaston > Welcome



Camp Gaston Summer Offerings



How to Register



Elementary Camp Offerings



Middle School Camp Offerings



High School Cam Offerings



Academically & Intellectually Gifted Camp Offerings



Exceptional Children Camp Offerings



E.S.L. Enrichment Camps

