

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

MINUTES

The Gaston County Board of Education met in a regular session on Monday, March 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 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 Mr. Brent Moore; seconded by Mr. A.M. Stephens III; motion carried unanimously. (8-0) (Dot Cherry briefly stepped out of the room)

Good News – Information

Superintendent Booker recognized Josie Houchard a student at Highland School of Technology. Josie has been selected as one of the top five Career and Technical Education Scholars in North Carolina. Josie was recognized as part of the United States Presidential Scholars Program and was chosen for demonstrating outstanding ability and achievement in Career and Technical Education fields.

Mr. Josh Crisp presented a Certificate of Recognition to Josie.

Superintendent Booker recognized our winners in the Mid-Carolina Scholastic Art and Writing Awards and the Gaston County High School Senior Art Show.

In Gaston County there are two Gold Key, two Silver Key and six Honorable Mention awards in the Regional Scholastic Art and Writing Awards.

Our Gold Key winners are:

Hannah Langley and Sanaa Swain of Cramerton Middle School.

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

Our Silver Key winners are:

Amy McPherson and Ramona Rice of Cramerton Middle School

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

Our Honorable Mention winners are:

Emma Quick of Gaston Early College High School

Samantha Saltiel of Highland School of Technology

Joyce Zhu of Cramerton Middle

Sanaa Swain of Cramerton Middle

Amy McPherson of Cramerton Middle (two honorable mentions)

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

Award winners in the Gaston County High School Senior Art Show are:

Erin Poteat – of Ashbrook High School. Erin’s sculpture titled “Silly Billy” was named “Best of Show” winning the overall top award in the competition.

Ms. Dot Cherry presented a Certificate of Recognition to Erin.

Award winners for “Best of Show” are:

Mark Morales Reyes of Hunter Huss High School – First Place

Brittany Garcia Barrantes of Hunter Huss High School – Second Place

Ashton Pope of North Gaston High School – Third Place

Ms. Dot Cherry presented a Certificate of Recognition to Mark. Brittany and Ashton were unable to attend the meeting tonight.

Superintendent Booker recognized students who won individual state championships from the North Carolina High School Athletic Association.

Camryn Massey of Ashbrook High School and Alexis Willis of Stuart W. Cramer High School. Camryn won the 3A state championship with a first place finish in the girls shot put competition and Alexis won the state championship in the girls triple jump and also claimed the state championship in the girls long jump.

Mr. Tod Kinlaw presented a Certificate of Recognition to Camry. Alexis was unable to attend the meeting tonight and Principal Jessica Steiner accepted the certificate on her behalf.

Matt Karagias, Charlie Sly and Bentley Sly from Stuart Cramer High School won state wrestling championships. Matt won the individual state title in the 160-pound weight class. Charlie won the state wrestling championship in the 132-pound weight class. In addition, Charlie was also named the 3A most outstanding wrestler. Bentley won the state championship in the 120-pound weight class.

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

Public Expression – Information

Bobby Padgett
7152 Marlin Street
Gastonia, NC 28056
RE: Payroll

Approval/Correction of Minutes

The Board considered Approval/Correction of Minutes – Action

Motion to adopt minutes of February 20, 2023 (Regular Meeting) and February 24, 2023 (Legislative Meeting) as presented was made by Mr. Lee Dedmon; seconded by Ms. Dot Cherry; 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)

After School Program — ASPIRE - Information

Chairman Ramsey recognized Dr. Cynthia Reynolds and Dr. LeAnne Conyers who presented a PowerPoint on After School Program – ASPIRE.

(View PowerPoint)

High School Exam Schedules – Spring 2022-2023 Traditional High Schools and Gaston Early Colleges – Action

Chairman Ramsey recognized Dr. Cristi Bostic who presented a PowerPoint on High School Final Exam Schedule.

(View PowerPoint)

Superintendent's Budget Request 2023-2024 – Information

Chairman Ramsey recognized Mr. Gary Hoskins who presented a PowerPoint on Superintendent's Budget Request.

(View PowerPoint)

School Business Systems Modernization Update – Information

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

(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. EOG/EOC Summer School
- E. Reduction in Force — Strategic Planning
- F. Contracts
 - Educational Partners International. LLC
 - Participate Learning
 - North Gaston High School — Stadium Drainage Project
 - Ashbrook High School — Stadium Drainage Project
 - Holbrook Middle School — Roof Replacement
 - Cramerton Middle School — Roof Replacement
 - Bessemer City Middle School — Roof Replacement
 - Springfield Elementary School — Roof Replacement
 - Various Schools — HVAC System Cleaning
 - High School Athletic Field Renovations
 - New Grier Middle School — Notice to Proceed
 - Scribbles Services, LLC
 - Bayada — Addendum
 - Holy Angels — Addendum

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

Superintendent's Comments

Superintendent Booker reported that the AIG Department is hosting the Math Masters, Math Elite and Elementary Battle of the Books competitions this week. On Thursday, March 23 at 6:00 p.m. the department will hold the "CoffeeHouse 678" program at Flint Groves Baptist Church. This event is a literary performance where students recite poems and stories.

Superintendent Booker reported that Stuart W. Cramer High School is presenting "Seussical" on March 23, 24 and 25 at 7:00 p.m. and on March 26 at 2:00 p.m. North Gaston High School is presenting the musical, "Into the Woods," on March 23, 24 and 25 at 7:00 p.m. On Saturday, April 1, Hawks Nest STEAM Academy is presenting its production of "Disney's Moana, Junior" with shows at 1:00 p.m. and 3:30 p.m.

Superintendent Booker reported that on Saturday, April 1, Forestview High School is hosting a Prom Closet from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. This is an opportunity for students who are in need of a dress for the prom to get one free of charge.

Superintendent Booker reported that Holbrook Middle School is hosting our All-County Middle School Band Concert on Saturday, April 1 at 2:00 p.m. and our All-County Chorus Concert for Middle Schools and High Schools on Tuesday, April 4 at 6:00 p.m.

Superintendent Booker reported that Webb Street School will host its annual plant sale April 3-6. The students have been working hard to get all of the plants in the greenhouse ready for the big sale.

Superintendent Booker reminded everyone that Spring Break is almost here. Friday, April 7 is a state holiday for all employees, and our schools and the central office will be closed. April 10-13 is teacher annual leave days, and Friday, April 14 is an optional teacher workday, which means no school for students the week of April 10.

Superintendent Booker reported that we will hold a Job Fair on Friday, April 28 at Catawba Heights Baptist Church in Belmont. The event runs from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. Applicants interested in attending the job fair may visit the Gaston County Schools website and complete the online form under the "Jobs" tab on the Human Resources page.

Chairman Ramsey wished a "Happy Birthday" to Mr. A.M. Stephens III and Mrs. Robbie Lovelace.

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 7:22 p.m.

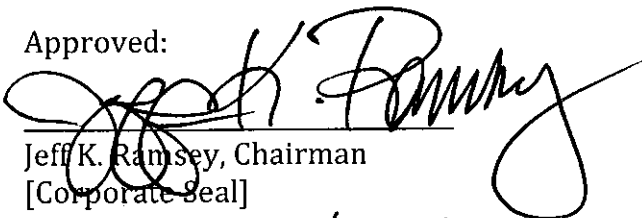
The Board returned to Open Session at 8:04 p.m.

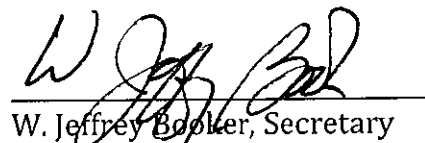
Adjournment

All 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 8:04 p.m.

Approved:


Jeff K. Ramsey, Chairman
[Corporate Seal]


W. Jeffrey Booker, Secretary

Date Approved: 4/17/23