

Gaston County Schools  
Board of Education  
Friday, January 26, 2024  
Meeting 8:30 a.m.  
Regular Meeting

MINUTES

The Gaston County Board of Education met in a regular session on Friday, January 26, 2024 at 8:30 a.m. in the Linda Rader Staff Development Center, 240 Eighth Avenue, Cramerton, NC. Those Board Members in attendance were: Chairman Jeff Ramsey, Vice Chairman Dot Cherry, Josh Crisp, Lee Dedmon, Dot Guthrie, Tod Kinlaw (absent), Robbie Lovelace, Brent Moore, and A.M. Stephens III.

Additional attendees include: Interim Superintendent Dr. Stephen Laws, Attorney Sonya McGraw, Interim Associate Superintendent Dr. Beth Folger and Associate Superintendent 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 8:37 a.m. and welcomed everyone.

**Invocation**

Interim Superintendent Laws read a devotional thought.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Interim Superintendent Laws 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 Ms. Dot Cherry; motion carried unanimously. (7-0) (Mr. Stephens was out of the room for the vote)

**Good News – Information**

Chairman Ramsey recognized Mr. Todd Hagans who presented a PowerPoint on Good News.

(View PowerPoint)

**Public Expression – Information**

No one signed up for Public Expression.

**Approval/Correction of Minutes - Action**

Motion to adopt minutes of December 4 and December 18, 2023 as presented was made by Mr. Lee Dedmon; seconded by Mr. Brent Moore; motion carried unanimously. (7-0) (Mr. Stephens was out of the room for the vote)

### **Restart Model – Action**

Chairman Ramsey recognized Dr. Cynthia Reynolds who presented a PowerPoint on Restart Updates.

### **Motion**

Motion was made by Mr. A.M. Stephens III; seconded by Mrs. Dot Guthrie that the Board

#### **Approve the Restart Model**

A vote was taken and motion to approve the item as presented carried unanimously. (8-0)

(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
  - North Gaston High School Façade and Security Vestibule Design
  - W.C. Friday Middle School – Professional Services for Entrance Improvements
  - Hunter Huss High School – Professional Services for Stadium Concession and Restroom Improvements
  - Facilities Department – Vehicle Purchase

Motion to adopt the Consent Agenda as presented was made by Mr. Brent Moore; seconded by Mr. A.M. Stephens III motion carried unanimously. (8-0)

### **Superintendent's Comments**

Interim Superintendent Dr. Laws saved his comments until the end of the day.

### **Closed Session**

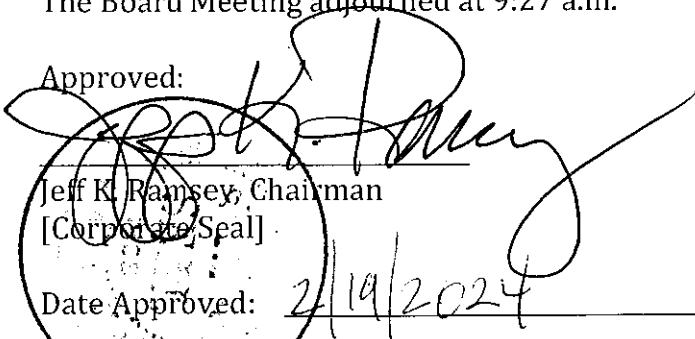
Closed Session was not needed.

### **Adjournment**

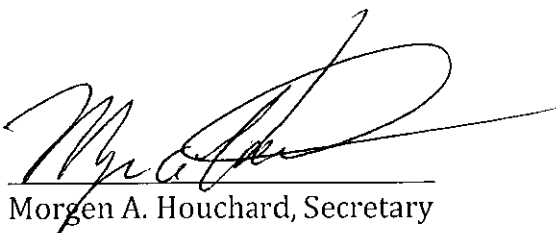
All business having been conducted, Motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Lee Dedmon; seconded by Mr. Josh Crisp motion carried unanimously. (8-0)

The Board Meeting adjourned at 9:27 a.m.

Approved:

  
Jeff K. Ramsey, Chairman  
[Corporate Seal]

Date Approved: 2/19/2024

  
Morgen A. Houchard, Secretary

# Good News from Gaston County Schools

*January 2024*

Gaston County Schools

## School Board Recognition Month



**Gaston County  
Board of Education**

*Thank  
you!*

Gaston County Schools



## **United Way Fundraising**

**Gaston County Schools  
is the top contributor to  
the 2023-2024 campaign**

**\$114,000+**

Gaston County Schools

## **Commissioners' School**

**Applications are being  
accepted now for current  
ninth graders to attend the  
summer leadership program**

**Application deadline is January 31.**

Gaston County Schools



## **Actress/singer visits**

**Maria Howell spent time with students at H.H. Beam Elementary focusing on the power of stage presence, confidence, and self-esteem**

Gaston County Schools

## **Science and Engineering Fair**

**Another successful science fair for Gaston County Schools with numerous students winning awards and advancing to the regionals**

Gaston County Schools



## **5 Upcoming Events**

### **All-District Band Concert**

**Saturday, January 27**

**Stuart W. Cramer High School**

**2:00 p.m.**

Gaston County Schools

## **5 Upcoming Events**

### **Spelling Bee**

**Wednesday, January 31**

**Ashbrook High School**

**9:00 a.m.**

Gaston County Schools



## **5 Upcoming Events**

### **Showcase and Parent Fair**

**Saturday, February 3**

**Stuart W. Cramer High School**

**11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

**Gaston County Schools**

## **5 Upcoming Events**

### **“Are You Smarter” competition**

**Thursday, February 8**

**Stuart W. Cramer High School**

**6:00 p.m.**

**Gaston County Schools**



## **5 Upcoming Events**

### **All-County Band Concert**

**Saturday, February 10**

**Ashbrook High School**

**2:00 p.m.**

Gaston County Schools

## **Good News from Gaston County Schools**

*January 2024*

Gaston County Schools





# Gaston County Schools Restart Updates

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# Restart Model



Restart is one of four Reform models available to LEAs to support the reform of any school designated as Recurring Low Performing.



# GCS Restart Schools

Cohort 1 started 2017/18 school year:

- Bessemer City Central
- Sadler EMS
- Sherwood EMS
- Woodhill EMS
- Southwest MS
- Hunter Huss HS



# Restart Flexibility Categories

- Budget
- Employment Requirement
- Calendar
- Standard Course of Study
- Assessment
- Class Size





# Restart Review Process

## Part 1

Restart Model  
District Implementation  
Self-Study

## Part 2

Restart School  
Reflection on Progress

## Part 3

District Intent Declared

*Only Schools in need of  
Flexibility Outcomes:*  
Presentation on  
Progress



# Continued Authorization Review Outcomes by Policy

## Three Possible Outcomes:

- Continued Authorization
- Re-Apply in order to continue Authorization
- Submit an application to Exit



# Continued Authorization Review Outcomes by Policy

Continue Authorization	
Exceeding Expectations	Meeting Expectations
<p>If a school is no longer Recurring Low Performing and the Growth Status is Meet or Exceeds Growth, the SBE <b><u>may continue</u></b> the LEA's authorization to operate the school under the Restart Model.</p> <p>DPI may reduce the LEA's reporting obligations for the school, as long as the school does not regress to a Recurring Low Performing school designation.</p>	<p>Schools demonstrating Academic Gain <b><u>may continue</u></b> in their authorization in the Restart Model.</p>
Recommended to Continue	Recommended to Continue

In either scenario, the district will need to declare their intent to continue.





# Continued Authorization Review Outcomes by Policy

Reapply for Authorization	Submit an Exit Application
Not Meeting Expectations	Meeting or Exceeding Expectations
<p>No evidence of progress in Academic Gain after 4 years of implementation in the model.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Growth Status Not Met</li><li>● Achievement Score Negative Net Change</li></ul> <p>The LEA must submit a new Restart application with a new plan for improvement and shall partner with DPI for intensive support until demonstrating Academic Gain.</p>	<p><b>At the end of the monitoring cycle</b>, if a LEA no longer desires to use the Restart Model to continue to reform a school that <u>has demonstrated Academic Gain</u>, the LEA shall submit a written application to the SBE to remove authorization for the Restart Model.</p> <p>If a LEA no longer desires to use the Restart Model to continue to reform a school that <u>has not demonstrated Academic Gain</u>, the LEA shall submit a written application to the SBE to remove authorization for the Restart Model.</p>
Must Reapply to Continue	Submit an application to Exit

In either scenario, the district will need to declare their intent to reapply or exit.

LEA	District	Year	School Name	Cohort	Cohort Baseline	Low Performing School	Rec Ip school	Growth Status Change	Achievement Score Change	Sub Growth	Status
360	GCS	2023	Hunter Huss High	Cohort 1	2017	Y	Y	Met->Not Met	-3.8	66.7	No Academic Gain
360	GCS	2023	Bessemer City Central Elementary	Cohort 1	2017	Y	Y	Met->Not Met	-4.1	33.3	No Academic Gain
360	GCS	2023	Sherwood Elementary	Cohort 1	2017	Y	Y	Exceeded->Not Met	-12.4	66.7	No Academic Gain
360	GCS	2023	Southwest Middle	Cohort 1	2017	N	N	Met->Exceeded	-6	100	Exceeds
360	GCS	2023	Sadler Elementary	Cohort 1	2017	Y	Y	Met->Met	-8.4	100	Academic Gain
360	GCS	2023	Woodhill Elementary	Cohort 1	2017	Y	Y	Not Met->Met	-7.8	60	Academic Gain





# DPI Recommendations for the 24/25 School Year

- Sadler EMS-Continue Authorization
- Woodhill EMS-Continue Authorization
- Southwest MS-Continue Authorization
- Hunter Huss HS-Re-apply with a new plan
- Bessemer City Central-Re-apply with a new plan
- Sherwood EMS-Re-apply with a new plan

All applications are due February 29, 2024 , this is a five year commitment.



# Possible Restart Schools Beginning 24/25 School Year

- HH Beam EMS
- Lingerfeldt EMS
- Pleasant Ridge EMS
- Grier MS

All applications are due February 29, 2024 , this is a five year commitment.







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