

**GASTON COUNTY**  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**REGULAR SESSION**



*Shaping Our Future*

**Rader Staff Development**  
**240 Eighth Avenue, Cramerton, NC 28032**  
**January 26, 2024**  
**8:30 a.m.**

## **Agenda Item**

**Meeting Date:** 1/26/2024

**Agenda Item Title/Topic:** Agenda Adoption

**Type of Item:** ☐ Consent ☒ Action ☐ Information

**Main Points:**

Consideration of Formal Agenda for Friday, January 26, 2024.

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  
Tod Kinlaw, South Point Township



Robbie Lovelace, Cherryville Township  
Brent Moore, Crowders Mountain Township  
A.M. Stephens, III, Riverbend Township

Rader Staff Development  
240 Eighth Avenue, Cramerton, NC 28032

Friday, January 26, 2024

8:30 a.m.

Agenda

Regular Meeting

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## **Agenda Item**

**Meeting Date:** 1/26/2024

**Agenda Item Title/Topic:** Good News

**Type of Item:** ☐ Consent      ☐ Action      ☒ Information

**Main Points:**

Each month, the Communications/Public Information Department compiles "Good News" about our schools, students, employees, and community partners. See attachment.

**Fiscal Implications:**

None

**Recommendation:**

None

**Policy Implications:**

None

**Strategic Goal Alignment:**

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

**Submitted by:** Todd Hagans, Chief Communications Officer

**Department:** Communications/Public Information (Superintendent's Office)

## BOARD AGENDA INFORMATIONAL ITEM

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**DEPARTMENT:** Communications/Public  
Information Department

**TOPIC: GOOD NEWS**

**FOR THE MONTH OF:** January 2024

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1. **Gaston County Schools'** nutrition department won an award from the North Carolina Department of Instruction for its school garden. The 0.06-acre garden, which is certified with Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), provided fresh produce for student meals during the summer nutrition program. The garden produced 750 pounds of cucumbers and 40 pounds of cherry tomatoes.
2. The North Carolina Teaching Fellows Commission selected **Gaston County Schools** as one of 20 school districts in the state to receive a \$50,000 recruitment grant to promote the Teaching Fellows program and the teaching profession. The funds will be used to help support teacher assistants who have an interest in becoming a licensed teacher.
3. **David Noblitt of Hunter Huss High School, Laura Robinson of North Gaston High School, and Rebecca Wray of Ashbrook High School** were among the 445 Impact Educators recognized by outstanding high school senior semifinalists for the UNC Morehead-Cain Scholarship. The educators from 35 states, the District of Columbia, and 12 countries have played a significant role in shaping the lives and leadership learning of their students.
4. **Ashleigh Arceo of Highland School of Technology and Jennifer Cloninger of South Point High School** received National Board Certification. In addition the following teachers renewed National Board Certification: **Susan Allen, Chavis Middle School; Terri Cochran, North Gaston High School; Lynda Euchner, East Gaston High School; Alexandra Fitschen, Lowell Elementary; Jaime Keller, North Belmont Elementary; Victoria Kiser, Highland School of Technology; Kerri Lowe, Cramerton Middle School; Chris McKay, Forestview High School; Jennifer Melton, Brookside Elementary; Jordan Paciocco, Chapel Grove Elementary; Katherine Plecnik, Academic Services; Victoria Sain, Gaston Early College High School; Bridget Sleeper-Matzke, Highland School of Technology; Natalie Spargo, McAdenville Elementary; Rhoda Verhosek, Chapel Grove Elementary; and Dustin Weaver, Stuart W. Cramer High School.**
5. **Chelsea Harley of New Hope Elementary and Kimberly Queen of Sherwood Elementary** received the Glenn Sisters Legacy Fund grants from the Gaston County Education Foundation.
6. **Hunter Huss High School** alumnus and actress/singer **Maria Howell** shared important insights with **H.H. Beam Elementary** students. She emphasized the power of stage presence, confidence, and self-esteem during her presentation.

7. The following high school students won awards at the Gaston Regional Science and Engineering Fair: **Stephany Mejia-Lopez, Kayla Carithers, and Rahza Adams** of **Gaston Early College High School** were the overall winners. **Henry Davis** of **Highland School of Technology** placed first in the Biological Sciences A category; **Jozzy Da Rosa** and **Adelai Hardin** of **Gaston Early College High School** placed first in the Biological Sciences B category; **Micajah Hanna** of **Gaston Early College High School** placed first in the Chemistry category. **Kyli Herndon** of **Gaston Early College of Medical Sciences** placed first in the Earth and Environmental Sciences category; **Nicholas Markley** of **Forestview High School** placed first in the Physics category; **Addison Royall** of **Stuart W. Cramer High School** placed first in the Math, Statistics, and Data Science category; **Seth Eaker, Grayson Harrington, and Helanea Killian** of **Gaston Early College High School** placed first in the Engineering category; and **Thomas Azar, Shafin Irfan, and Coleson Burgess** of **Forestview High School** placed first in the Technology category. **Maggie Ballard** of **East Gaston High School** and **Jillian Norwood** of **Gaston Early College of Medical Sciences** were recipients of the Naval Science Award, and **Raegan Lilja** of **East Gaston High School** was the recipient of SPARC3 of Genius Award presented by Gaston College.
8. The **Ashbrook High School** Cares Program collected more than 1,200 bottles of Gatorade and cans of chicken noodle soup along with cash donations for Cancer Services of Gaston County.
9. The Rotary Club of Gastonia assisted 11 families at **H.H. Beam Elementary** by providing Christmas trees, food, and gift cards. Each student and their family had the opportunity to take a picture with Santa.
10. The Falcon Radio Club, N2FRC, at **W.B. Beam Intermediate School** had an amazing opportunity to intercept and tune in to astronaut Jasmin Moghbeli as she transmitted live from the International Space Station.
11. **W.B. Beam Intermediate School** collected 1,100 canned food and non-perishable items for St. John's Lutheran Church.
12. **W.A. Bess Elementary** students created holiday drawings for the residents at The Ivy at Gastonia. Art teacher **Michelle Curnow** and school counselor **Renea Walker** organized the community service project.
13. **Bessemer City High School** resource officer **Jeffrey Thompson** was named Employee of the Year by Gaston County Government. Through initiatives like the school's Impact Club, Officer Thompson provided students with opportunities for community service such as blanket and winter clothes drives for the Salvation Army and creating Easter baskets for **Bessemer City Primary** and **Bessemer City Central Elementary** students. During the "Cold Weather Drive" for the Salvation Army, the club collected 739 items. Over the past three years, the students under Officer Thompson's guidance have contributed more than 1,900 items.
14. The "Krawl for Coats" initiative collaboration between the Dallas Police Department and the Carolina Krawlerz Jeep Club was held at **Carr Elementary** on December 15.

15. **Chapel Grove Elementary** received a donation of book bags and school supplies from the Gaston County Police Department.
16. **Chavis Middle School** teacher **Eric Miller** received a \$1,250 grant from Piedmont Lithium to purchase 15 drone kits.
17. The **Chavis Middle School** Beta Club organized a canned food drive and gathered 500 items.
18. **Cherryville High School** cheerleaders **Ava Miller**, **Chloee Stroupe**, and **Landyn McBride** were selected for the all-state cheerleading team.
19. **Cherryville High School** presented the following football awards during the school's annual fall sports banquet: **Josh Ward**, Golden Helmet Award; **Rayshawn Sewell**, Offense MVP Award; **Jordan Lowrance**, Defense MVP Award; **Caleb Hovis**, Most Valuable Lineman Award; **Andron Patterson**, Most Improved Award; **Justin Harris**, Coaches Award; **Justin Houser**, Senior Award; and **Hunter Jackson**, Ironman Award.
20. **Cherryville High School** presented the following cross country and tennis awards during the school's annual fall sports banquet: **Steven Wyatt**, Most Valuable Runner Award (Male); **Cameryn Bell**, Most Valuable Runner Award (Female); **Payton Cook**, Tennis MVP Award; **Riley Bryant**, Ace Award; and **Sarah Rayfield**, Donna Lavery Coaches Award.
21. **Cherryville High School** presented the following volleyball and soccer awards during the school's annual fall sports banquet: **Jenna Anthony**, Team Before Self Award; **Kate Mulvey**, Best Server Award; **Taylor Digh**, Defensive Specialist Award; **Emily Allen**, Volleyball MVP Award; **Laila Davis**, Ironmen Award; **Kate Bookout**, Most Improved Award; **Jared Varela**, Most Valuable Defensive Player Award; **Cole Kelly**, Most Valuable Offensive Player Award; **Chance Hunt**, Most Improved Player Award; and **Nate Bookout**, Soccer MVP Award.
22. The **Cramerton Middle School** Beta Club hosted a toiletry drive for Catherine's House.
23. **Cramerton Middle School** student **Madaline Goodman** wanted to thank the school's custodians and cafeteria workers during the holidays. With the help of teachers, counselors, and classmates, she organized the making of handmade cards and treats to show appreciation for their hard work.
24. **Stuart W. Cramer High School** senior **Connor Smith** organized a heart healthy food drive to benefit local food pantries and people in need.
25. The **Stuart W. Cramer High School** student government volunteered at Operation Christmas Child and played a part in the collective effort that resulted in a daily total of 85,000 shoeboxes filled with items for people in need.

26. The Tri-M Music Honors Society at **East Gaston High School** presented a Christmas performance for the residents of Holy Angels in Belmont. Tri-M is made up of honors students in the band and choir ensembles who demonstrate leadership, musicianship, and quality of character. They actively engage in music-related service projects at the school and in the community. Over the past year, the group has successfully conducted two service projects in collaboration with Holy Angels.
27. **Hawks Nest STEAM Academy** has been selected for the Building Engineers in K-5 Classrooms Initiative.
28. **McAdenville Elementary** second grader **Kieran Miller** was chosen to “flip the switch” at the annual McAdenville tree lighting ceremony.
29. Students from **McAdenville Elementary** took part in the McAdenville Yule Log Parade. The students sang carols in front of the Pharr building and then proudly pulled the Yule Log sled down Main Street.
30. McAdenville Wesleyan Church and the Cramer Mountain Investment Club provided support for 31 **McAdenville Elementary** families during the holiday season.
31. **Kyle Haywood’s** carpentry students at **North Gaston High School** built a “Blessing Box” at **Chapel Grove Elementary**. The “Blessing Box” is stocked with essentials for the community.
32. **Pinewood Elementary School** hosted a special visit by Governor Roy Cooper, who got a firsthand look at the amazing learning activities happening at one of the three North Carolina A+ Schools in **Gaston County Schools**. He was welcomed by the school’s student ambassadors and a performance by the **East Gaston High School** drumline. Governor Cooper visited three classrooms where he interacted with teachers and students and learned about how the school infuses the arts across the curriculum. Additionally, the school’s show choir performed for him.
33. CarMax in Gastonia donated toys for students and items for the food pantry at **Webb Street School**.
34. Atlantech Distribution, Inc. provided Christmas gifts to several families at **York Chester Middle School**.
35. School resource officer **Patricia Davis** of **York Chester Middle School** was honored with the Chief’s Commendation Award from the Gaston County Police Department. The prestigious award recognizes Officer Davis for exemplary service that demonstrates dedication and concern for the community.



## **Agenda Item**

**Meeting Date:** 1/26/2024

**Agenda Item Title/Topic:** Public Expression

**Type of Item:** ☐ Consent ☐ Action ☒ Information

**Main Points:**

The Board of Education agenda has been made available to the public for review. Citizens wishing to speak before the Board about an agenda item or other topic may do so during Public Expression.

**Fiscal Implications:**

None

**Recommendation:**

The Board of Education will establish time (30 minutes) at the beginning of the regular monthly meeting for Public Expression. Any citizen not heard during this time may be heard at the end of the business session.

**Policy Implications:**

None

**Strategic Goal Alignment:**

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

**Submitted by:** Todd Hagans, Chief Communications Officer

**Department:** Communications/Public Information (Superintendent's Office)

## **Agenda Item**

**Meeting Date:** 1/26/2024

**Agenda Item Title/Topic:** Approval/Correction of Minutes

**Type of Item:** ☐ Consent      ☒ Action      ☐ Information

**Main Points:**

Approval of Minutes of:

December 4, 2023 (Work Session)

December 18, 2023 (Regular Meeting)

Efficient consideration of matters pertinent to the successful operation of the school system.

**Fiscal Implications:**

None

**Recommendation:**

None

**Policy Implications:**

Validation of Board Proceedings.

**Strategic Goal Alignment:**

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

**Submitted by:** Dr. Stephen Laws

**Department:** Superintendent

Gaston County Schools  
Board of Education  
Monday, December 4, 2023  
Meeting 4:00 p.m.  
Work Session

MINUTES

The Gaston County Board of Education met in a work session on Monday, December 4, 2023 at 4:00 p.m. in the Board Room, 943 Osceola Street, Gastonia, NC. Those Board Members in attendance were: Chairman Jeff Ramsey, Vice Chairman Dot Cherry, Josh Crisp, Lee Dedmon, Dot Guthrie (absent), Tod Kinlaw, Robbie Lovelace (absent), Brent Moore, and A.M. Stephens III (absent).

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 4:01 p.m. and welcomed everyone.

**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. Lee Dedmon; motion carried unanimously. (6-0)

**2024-2025 and 2025-2026 School Calendars – Information**

Chairman Ramsey recognized Dr. Morgen Houchard who presented a PowerPoint on 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 School Calendars.

(View PowerPoint)

**Construction Update – Auxiliary Services – Information**

Chairman Ramsey recognized Dr. Morgen Houchard who provided an update on ongoing construction projects. The roofing project is complete at Kiser Elementary School, Springfield Elementary School is 90% complete and Bessemer City Middle School is 80% complete. Bessemer City High School, Cherryville High School and Hunter Huss High School are in the planning stages for roofs. The HVAC and boiler project is 100% complete at Kiser Elementary School and Ashbrook High School and East Gaston High School are 90% complete. Hunter Huss High School auditorium and North Gaston High School are next in line for HVAC and boiler projects. The drainage project at North Gaston High School is complete.

Other projects include Hunter Huss High School Cosmetology Lab. The design is complete and the bid opening will be held on Friday, December 8, 2023. This renovation will convert a classroom to a CTE cosmetology lab. The Forest Heights CTE project design is in progress and we hope to bid in mid-January 2024. This will convert Forest Heights into a CTE Discovery Workforce Development Lab. We have two special Legislative Funds –Hunter Huss High School athletics and South Point High School athletics. Both projects will bid in January 2024. We continue to work on paving, life safety, lighting and other projects.

### **Holbrook Middle School Drainage Repair Contract - Information**

Chairman Ramsey recognized Dr. Morgen Houchard who gave an update on the Holbrook Middle School drainage repair contract. Due to broken/separated areas in the drainage pipe under the football field, soil is being washed away causing erosion issues. OnSite Development, LLC offered the lowest bid at \$223,680. This item will be on the December 18, 2023 agenda for approval.

Dr. Morgen Houchard asked Board Members to hear two additional items that he did not receive in time to include in the Board Book — Transportation Department – Fuel Master Product and Southwest Middle School – LED Lighting.

### **Transportation Department – Fuel Master Product - Information**

Dr. Morgen Houchard gave an update on the Transportation Department – Fuel Master Product. Fuel Master is a real time fuel and fleet data management system. The system includes hardware that communicates fueling data to a cloud-based platform. The system would be installed on all GCS yellow school buses and yellow service vehicles. The cost of the Fuel Master product will be \$305,028 for equipment purchase and installation with 5-year cellular support. The funding will be from PRC 140 State funds allotted by the Smart School Bus Safety Pilot Program. This item will be on the December 18, 2023 agenda for approval.

### **Southwest Middle School – LED Lighting - Information**

Dr. Morgen Houchard gave an update on the Southwest Middle School – LED Lighting. The current lighting system at Southwest Middle School is old and in need of repair and replacement. Our practice has been to replace older lights with LED lights since they are more efficient and produce better lighting. As a result, LED lighting will save on energy costs and improve safety for students, employees and visitors. Light Serve submitted the only bid which was for \$207,366. Proceeds from the \$80 million school bond offering will be used to pay for this project. This item will be on the December 18, 2023 agenda for approval.

### **Annual Payment – CherryRoad Technologies - Information**

Chairman Ramsey recognized Mr. Gary Hoskins who gave an update on Annual Payment – CherryRoad Technologies. In August 2019, our Board approved replacing Sunpac/AS400 and several other older legacy software vendors with Oracle Cloud Services. CherryRoad Technologies (CRT) would be implementing the computer conversion and supporting the software. Gaston County Schools signed a five-year contract with CRT to provide these software services. The contract was approved and negotiated by DPI and the fees were based on ADM. The first year (2020) of the contract was paid by DPI and the remaining four years (2021-2024) are paid by Gaston County Schools. We will be entering the fifth and final year (2024) of the five-year contract. This contract will expire on November 30, 2024.

### **Leadership Development – Information**

Chairman Ramsey recognized Dr. Beth Folger who presented a PowerPoint on Leadership Development.

(View PowerPoint)

### **School Showcase – Information**

Chairman Ramsey recognized Mr. Todd Hagans who reported on School Showcase. Gaston County Schools Showcase and Parent Fair will be held on Saturday, February 3, 2024 from 11:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. at Stuart W. Cramer High School. The “Showcase” is an expansion of the annual School Choice Fair and will include all 56 schools as well as seminars for parents; student performances and

demonstrations; food trucks; registration for our choice programs, kindergarten and pre-kindergarten and other activities. The overall purpose of the "Showcase" is to promote all that Gaston County Schools has to offer.

Interim Superintendent Laws announced that Governor Cooper will be visiting Pinewood Elementary School (North Carolina A+ School) Tuesday, December 5 at 11:30 a.m. Governor Cooper will tour three classrooms and then everyone will gather in the media center for remarks.

### **Board Policy Updates – Information**

Chairman Ramsey recognized Mrs. McGraw who reported recent changes require revisions to GCS policies. Staying current on board policies keeps us in alignment with North Carolina State Board of Education policies and NC law. Draft policies will be posted on the GCS web page for review by the general public. This item will be on the December 18, 2023 agenda for approval.

### **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. (6-0)

The Board went into Closed Session at 5:08 p.m. and after a brief break Closed Session began at 5:12 p.m.

The Board returned to Open Session at 5:59 p.m.

Chairman Ramsey announced that the Board extended Dr. Stephen Laws' contract until June 30, 2024 or until a new superintendent is sworn in and extended Dr. Beth Folger's contract until June 30, 2024.

### **Adjournment**

All business having been conducted, Motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Lee Dedmon; seconded by Mr. Brent Moore motion carried unanimously. (6-0)

The Board Meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Approved:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jeff K. Ramsey, Chairman  
[Corporate Seal]

\_\_\_\_\_  
Stephen C. Laws, Secretary

Date Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Gaston County Schools  
Board of Education  
Monday, December 18, 2023  
Meeting 5:30 p.m.  
Regular Meeting

MINUTES

The Gaston County Board of Education met in a regular session on Monday, December 18, 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: 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 5:30 p.m. and welcomed everyone.

**Invocation**

Interim Superintendent Laws read a devotional thought and had a moment of silence.

**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. Lee Dedmon; seconded by Ms. Dot Cherry; motion carried unanimously. (9-0)

**Good News – Information**

Mr. Todd Hagans recognized Samantha Narciso from South Point High School. Samantha is a Class of 2024 QuestBridge Scholar, which means she has earned a full scholarship to attend Boston College, where she plans to study nursing. After graduating, Samantha would like to enter the medical field, become a nurse practitioner, and open her own practice. Her scholarship is valued at approximately \$400,000 and was awarded through QuestBridge, which is a highly competitive scholarship program that removes financial barriers and matches some of the nation's brightest students with four-year scholarships to attend the best colleges in the United States. Samantha is one of 2,242 high school seniors to have earned a QuestBridge scholarship this year, winning the scholarship from a pool of almost 20,800 applications.

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

Mr. Todd Hagans recognized Parker Stillwell from Lowell Elementary. Every year, all third-grade students in our 27 elementary schools participate in the Gaston Travel Tour educational program. After completing the curriculum, the students are asked to write an essay explaining why they consider

themselves the 'Proudest Kid in Gaston County.' Each school selects an essay winner, and the winning essays advance to a county-wide competition. In May, a program was held at CaroMont Health Park where Parker was recognized as 'The Proudest Kid in Gaston County.' The school winners received a medal for their outstanding essay, and Parker received a trophy and was invited to throw out the first pitch at the baseball game.

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

Mr. Todd Hagans recognized eighth-grader Andres Guerra from Mount Holly Middle School. Andres played a key role in his soccer team's success, scoring twice in a 3-1 win in the Gaston County championship game to secure Mount Holly's fourth county title in soccer. Additionally, he set a new record for the most goals scored by a middle school student during the season, finishing with an impressive 63 goals – this surpassed the previous record of 52 set by Andy Rangel of Grier Middle School during the 2002 and 2003 seasons.

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

Mr. Todd Hagans recognized Gavin Chastain from Bessemer City High School. In October, Gavin achieved an impressive eight touchdown passes to lead the Yellow Jackets to victory. Not only did Gavin's stellar performance set a new standard for Bessemer City, but it propelled his team into the 1A football playoffs. The Yellow Jackets, under his leadership, advanced to the second round – the only Gaston County football team to do so in 2023. Gavin finished his sophomore season passing for 1,082 yards and throwing 19 touchdowns while maintaining a quarterback rating over 122. Gavin's record-breaking performance, leadership in the playoffs, and impressive individual statistics collectively marked a standout season for him and the Yellow Jackets.

Mr. Brent Moore presented a Certificate of Recognition to Gavin.

Mr. Todd Hagans recognized the ten schools that led the way in our 2023-2024 fundraising campaign for the United Way of Gaston County. The 2023-2024 total for Gaston County Schools is \$114,831 and we want to express our appreciation to everyone who gave a contribution and participated in our fundraising efforts. Leading the way in fundraising is Southwest Middle School with \$8,800. Below are the top ten fundraising schools.

- Southwest Middle School - principal Melissa Knick and Erik Barton
- Grier Middle School - principal Dr. Amy Holbrook and Wanda Reid
- Hunter Huss High School - principal Dr. Bryan Denton, William Winston and Whitney Hill
- Cramerton Middle School - principal Kevin Doran and Paris Suttentfield
- Woodhill Elementary - principal Anarah Henderson and Molly Tessnear
- Highland School of Technology - principal James Montgomery and Jenny Carper
- North Gaston High School - principal Crystal Houser
- Carr Elementary - principal Dr. Rebekah Duncan, Thomas Plecnik, Sherrie Angstadt, and Heather Wiggins
- Pleasant Ridge Elementary - principal Bridgette Best and Savanna Abernathy
- Forestview High School - principal Jamie Peoples

Chairman Jeff Ramsey and Vice-Chairman Dot Cherry presented plaques to each school.

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

Interim Superintendent Dr. Laws recognized Mrs. Dot Guthrie, School Board Member, for being a Board Member for ten years. Chairman Ramsey and Vice Chairman Dot Cherry presented an appreciation pin to Mrs. Guthrie.

#### **Classroom Moment – Information**

Chairman Ramsey recognized Mr. Chris Mills and students from Webb Street School. Webb Street School has worked diligently this year to expand their music program in order to offer diverse opportunities to their students. This expansion of the arts program allows the students at Webb Street to engage through music and participate in activities similar to those of their non-disabled peers. The students at Webb Street showcased some of the musical skills that have been acquired through the expanded program with a group of students playing bells.

#### **Public Expression – Information**

Janet Davis  
1006 N. Morris Street  
Gastonia, NC 28052

#### **Approval/Correction of Minutes - Action**

Motion to adopt minutes of November 9, 2023 and November 20, 2023 as presented was made by Mr. Josh Crisp; seconded by Mr. Brent Moore; motion carried unanimously. (9-0)

#### **Acceptance of the June 30, 2023 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) – Action**

Chairman Ramsey recognized Mr. Gary Hoskins who introduced Mr. Vince Quinn who reviewed the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report.

#### **Motion**

The motion was made by Ms. Dot Cherry; seconded by Mr. Lee Dedmon that the Board

#### **Approve the June 30, 2023 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR)**

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

#### **Acceptance of the June 30, 2023 Compliance Report – Action**

Chairman Ramsey recognized Mr. Gary Hoskins who reported that Anderson Smith and Wike PLLC, Certified Public Accountants, have completed their compliance report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023. Mr. Hoskins reviewed the report.

#### **Motion**

Motion was made by Mr. Brent Moore; seconded by Mr. Josh Crisp that the Board

#### **Approve the Acceptance of the June 30, 2023 Compliance Report**

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

#### **Gaston County Schools Calendar 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 – Action**

Chairman Ramsey recognized Dr. Morgen Houchard who presented a PowerPoint on School Calendar Survey Results 2024-2025 and 2025-2026.



### **Motion**

Motion was made by Mr. Brent Moore; seconded by Mr. Josh Crisp that the Board

**Approve Calendar "C" as presented for the 2024-2025 and the 2025-2026 school years**

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

(View PowerPoint)

### **Gaston Early College Calendar 2024-2025 – Action**

Chairman Ramsey recognized Dr. Morgen Houchard who presented a PowerPoint on Gaston Early College High School Calendar 2024-2025.

### **Motion**

Motion was made by Mr. Lee Dedmon; seconded by Ms. Dot Cherry that the Board

**Approve Gaston Early College Calendar for 2024-2025**

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

(View PowerPoint)

### **Superintendent Selection Process, North Carolina School Boards Association – Information**

Chairman Ramsey reported that the Board of Education held Special Called Meetings on November 6, 13, 21 and 24 concerning candidate selection for the Superintendent Search. The Board of Education looks forward to updating the community as we continue the Superintendent Selection process.

The Board met on Monday, December 4 in a Work Session and extended contracts for Interim Superintendent Dr. Steve Laws and Interim Associate Superintendent Dr. Beth Folger.

### **Consent Agenda – Action**

The Board considered the Consent Agenda:

- A. Recommended Personnel
- B. Budget Amendments & Budget Transfers
- C. Construction/Repair Change Orders
- D. Board Policy Updates
- E. Contracts
  - Hunter Huss High School Cosmetology Lab and Classroom
  - Holbrook Middle School Drainage Repair
  - Southwest Middle School – LED Lighting
  - Transportation Department – Fuel Master Product

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

### **Superintendent's Comments**

Interim Superintendent Laws reported that winter break is almost here and our mid-year exams will conclude on Wednesday, December 20. Students will be out of school beginning Thursday, December 21 and will return on Monday, January 8, 2024 to begin the second semester.

Interim Superintendent Laws reported that the Gaston Regional Science and Engineering Fair will be held January 10, 11 and 12 at the Schiele Museum.

Interim Superintendent Laws thanked the Board, employees and the community for the opportunity of being the Interim Superintendent for Gaston County Schools.

Chairman Ramsey announced that the Dallas Christmas Parade has been rescheduled, due to rain, for Wednesday, December 20 at 3:00 p.m.

Chairman Ramsey wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Chairman Ramsey wished Ms. Dot Cherry and Mr. Tod Kinlaw a "Happy Birthday".

Chairman Ramsey reported that the 2024 Board of Education Meeting schedule is posted online.

Chairman Ramsey reported our regular meeting in conjunction with our Board Retreat will be held on Friday, January 26.

Chairman Ramsey asked the Board to consider going into Closed Session under, N.C.G.S. §143-318.11(a)(6) Personnel, N.C.G.S. §143-318.11(a)(3) Consultation with Attorney and N.C.G.S. §143-318.11(a)(8) School Safety Plans.

Motion to go into Closed Session was made by Ms. Dot Cherry; seconded by Mr. Josh Crisp; motion carried unanimously. (9-0)

The Board went into Closed Session at 6:57 p.m. and after a brief break Closed Session began at 7:05 p.m.

The Board returned to Open Session at 9:41 p.m.

#### **Motion**

The Motion was made by Mr. A.M. Stephens III; seconded by Mr. Lee Dedmon that the Board  
**Award a two-year Executive Director for Elementary Education contract for the following:**

Anarah Henderson  
Tyler West

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

#### **Motion**

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

Doneen Johnson  
Joshua Bromley  
Curtis Mitcham  
NaKishia Glenn  
Erik Barton Jr.  
Elizabeth Crosby

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

**Motion**

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

Dr. Alecia Roberts  
Rebecca Wray  
Karen Smith  
Angela Smith

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

Interim Dr. Steve Laws announced the following placements:

Doneen Johnson – Principal at Bessemer City High School  
Joshua Bromley – Principal at Belmont Middle School  
Curtis Mitcham – Principal at Mount Holly Middle School  
NaKishia Glenn – Principal at Tryon Elementary School  
Erik Barton Jr. – Principal at Woodhill Elementary School  
Elizabeth Crosby – Principal at H.H. Beam Elementary  
Anarah Henderson – Executive Director for Elementary Education  
Tyler West – Executive Director for Elementary Education  
Meghan LeFevers – Director of Exceptional Children  
Susan Redmond – Principal at Highland School of Technology  
Dr. Sharon Potts – Director for Alternative Education

On behalf of the Board, Ms. Dot Cherry reported the following:

In exchange for monetary payment in the amount of \$1,000,000 the Gaston County Board of Education has agreed to release all claims raised in Gaston County Board of Education vs. Shelco, LLC; S&ME Inc.; Boomerang Design, P.A.; and Campco Engineering, Inc. Case No. —20-CVS-3924.

**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 9:48 p.m.

Approved:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jeff K. Ramsey, Chairman  
[Corporate Seal]

\_\_\_\_\_  
Stephen C. Laws, Secretary

Date Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Agenda Item**

**Meeting Date:** 1/26/2024

**Agenda Item Title/Topic:** Restart Model

**Type of Item:** ☐ Consent ☒ Action ☐ Information

### **Main Points:**

Successful school reform requires intentional and effective strategic planning and aims for systemic change by removing barriers that would otherwise hinder student achievement. Indeed, "school reform can be a complex undertaking that requires careful thought and administration" (U.S. Department of Education).

For Restart Schools, the school's authorization to use charter-like flexibility is intended to provide more opportunities for school reform. The use of flexibility can potentially strengthen the systems and practices of the school and, in turn, improve student outcomes.

As of July 2023, there were 159 State Board of Education (SBE) approved Restart Schools in North Carolina across multiple cohorts. Six schools in Gaston County were approved as Restart in 2017. The six schools are Bessemer City Central Elementary, Sadler Elementary, Sherwood Elementary, Woodhill Elementary, Southwest Middle, and Hunter Huss High.

After six years of Restart flexibility, NCDPI determined that three Gaston County Restart Schools have made enough progress to continue as Restart with the current levels of state oversight. NCDPI has decided that the three others have yet to make sufficient progress and must reapply to the SBE to continue as a Restart School. Additionally, four more GCS schools are eligible to apply to be Restart Schools. They are Grier Middle, H.H. Beam Elementary, Lingerfeldt Elementary, and Pleasant Ridge Elementary. Applications are due to NCDPI no later than February 29, 2024.

### **Fiscal Implications:**

GCS will continue using Restart Funds.

### **Recommendation:**

Based on feedback from the 10 principals (6 current and 4 potential), staff recommends the Board of Education approve continuation status for Sadler Elementary, Woodhill Elementary, and Southwest Middle, reapplication status for Sherwood Elementary, Bessemer City Central Elementary, and Hunter Huss High, and initial application status for Grier Middle, H.H. Beam Elementary, Lingerfeldt Elementary, and Pleasant Ridge Elementary.

### **Policy Implications:**

N/A

### **Strategic Goal Alignment:**

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

**Submitted by:** Dr. Cynthia Reynolds

**Department:** Academic Services

## **Agenda Item**

**Meeting Date:** 1/26/2024

**Agenda Item Title/Topic:** Consent Agenda

**Type of Item:** ☒ **Consent**      ☒ **Action**      ☐ **Information**

**Main Points:**

Approval of the Consent Agenda by the Board for the following items:

- 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

**Fiscal Implications:**

None

**Recommendation:**

Consent items will be adopted with a single motion, second and vote, unless a request for removal from the Consent Agenda is heard from a Board member.

**Policy Implications:**

None

**Strategic Goal Alignment:**

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

**Submitted by:** Dr. Stephen Laws

**Department:** Superintendent

## **Agenda Item**

**Meeting Date:** 1/26/2024

**Agenda Item Title/Topic:** Recommended Personnel

**Type of Item:** ☒ Consent      ☒ Action      ☐ Information

**Main Points:**

In accordance with the provisions of G.S. 115C-276(j), "It shall be the duty of the Superintendent to recommend and the Board of Education to elect all principals, teachers and other school personnel in the administrative unit." It is also within the powers of the Board to hear requests for approved leave, retirement and resignations or terminations in accordance with employment and dismissal regulations.

**Fiscal Implications:**

N/A

**Recommendation:**

Approve personnel as recommended.

**Policy Implications:**

Necessary and appropriate personnel will be provided to assure successful administration of schools.

**Strategic Goal Alignment:**

Other: Policy or Gen Statute. See above.

**Submitted by:** Dr. Stephen Laws

**Department:** Human Resources

## **Agenda Item**

**Meeting Date:** 1/26/2024

**Agenda Item Title/Topic:** Budget Amendments and Budget Transfers

**Type of Item:** ☒ Consent      ☒ Action      ☐ Information

**Main Points:**

Budget amendments are needed to adjust the approved budget to reflect actual changes in revenue and budget transfers are needed to transfer money to proper expenditure codes as requested by fund managers.

**Fiscal Implications:**

Makes adjustments to the 2023-2024 budget.

**Recommendation:**

Approval of the attached listing of recommended budget amendments and transfers.

**Policy Implications:**

Policy Code: 8300 Fiscal Management Standards

**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

**Gaston County Schools  
Changes in Appropriations**

**2023-2024 Budget Resolution - December  
Transfers Between Functions**

**State Public School Fund**

Function	Description	Expense Increase	Expense Decrease
51000	Regular Instructional Services		34,316
65000	Operational Support Services	137,410	
66000	Financial and Human Resource Services		168,148
69000	Policy, Leadership and Communication/Public Information Services		6,551
72000	Nutrition Services	71,605	
		<u>209,015</u>	<u>209,015</u>

Explanation: These transfers adjust budgeted amounts per requests from fund managers/principals.



**Gaston County Schools  
Changes in Appropriations**

**2023-2024 Budget Resolution - December  
Transfers Between Functions**

**Local Current Expense Fund**

Function	Description	Expense Increase	Expense Decrease
51000	Regular Instructional Services		21,256
54000	School Leadership Services	825	
55000	Co-Curricular Services	74,700	
61000	Support and Development Services	200	
64000	Technology Support Services		1,700
65000	Operational Support Services	7,625	
66000	Financial and Human Resource Services		40,000
69000	Policy, Leadership and Communication/Public Information Services		21,123
72000	Nutrition Services	730	
		<u>84,080</u>	<u>84,080</u>

Explanation: These transfers adjust budgeted amounts per requests from fund managers/principals.

**Gaston County Schools  
Changes in Appropriations**

**2023-2024 Budget Resolution - December  
Transfers Between Functions**

**Federal Grants Fund**

Function	Description	Expense Increase	Expense Decrease
52000	Special Population Services	1,000	
53000	Alternative Programs and Services		18,366
58000	School-Based Support Services		4,105
65000	Operational Support Services		6,910
81000	Payments to Other Governmental Units	28,381	
		<u>29,381</u>	<u>29,381</u>

Explanation: These transfers adjust budgeted amounts per requests from fund managers/principals.

**Gaston County Schools  
Changes in Appropriations**

**2023-2024 Budget Resolution - December  
Transfers Between Functions**

**Restricted Grants Fund**

Function	Description	Expense Increase	Expense Decrease
53000	Alternative Programs and Services		15,000
81000	Payments to Other Governmental Units	15,000	
		<u>15,000</u>	<u>15,000</u>

Explanation: These transfers adjust budgeted amounts per requests from fund managers/principals.

**Gaston County Schools**  
**Changes in Appropriations**

**2023-2024 Budget Resolution - December**  
**Proposed Expenditures and Sources of Revenue**

**State Public School Fund**

#	Function	Description	Expense Increase (Decrease)	Revenue Increase (Decrease)
1	31000	Revenue - State Public School Fund		(678,474)
	51000	Regular Instructional Services	(678,474)	
		This amendment adjusts the Classroom Teachers allotment for best 1 of 2 ADM reduction - Allotment Revision #20 - FY24 (PRC0001)		
2	31000	Revenue - State Public School Fund		(65,788)
	54000	School Leadership Services	(65,788)	
		This amendment adjusts the Non-Instructional Support Personnel allotment for best 1 of 2 ADM reduction - Allotment Revision #20 - FY24 (PRC0003)		
3	31000	Revenue - State Public School Fund		(42,705)
	52000	Special Population Services	(42,705)	
		This amendment adjusts the School Psychologist - Position allotment for best 1 of 2 ADM reduction - Allotment Revision #20 - FY24 (PRC0006)		
4	31000	Revenue - State Public School Fund		(2,144)
	51000	Regular Instructional Services	(2,144)	
		This amendment adjusts the Career Technical Education-Program Support allotment for best 1 of 2 ADM reduction - Allotment Revision #20 - FY24 (PRC0014)		
5	31000	Revenue - State Public School Fund		426,448
	58000	School-Based Support Services	426,448	
		This amendment adjusts the School Technology Fund allotment - Allotment Revision #23 - FY24 (PRC0015)		
6	31000	Revenue - State Public School Fund		(111,701)
	51000	Regular Instructional Services	(111,701)	
		This amendment adjusts the Teacher Assistant allotment for best 1 of 2 ADM reduction - Allotment Revision #20 - FY24 (PRC0027)		

# State Public School Fund

			Expense Increase (Decrease)	Revenue Increase (Decrease)
#	Function	Description		
7	31000	Revenue - State Public School Fund		\$,820
	52000	Special Population Services	\$,820	
		This amendment budgets funds for the Behavioral Support allotment - Allotment Revision #22 - FY24 (PRC0029)		
8	31000	Revenue - State Public School Fund		60,000
	58000	School-Based Support Services	60,000	
		This amendment budgets funds for the Restart Schools allotment - FY24 (PRC0037)		
9	31000	Revenue - State Public School Fund		(7,952)
	51000	Regular Instructional Services	(7,952)	
		This amendment adjusts the Classroom Materials/Instructional Support allotment for best 1 of 2 ADM reduction - Allotment Revision #20 - FY24 (PRC0061)		
10	31000	Revenue - State Public School Fund		446,680
	52000	Special Population Services	446,680	
		This amendment budgets the Children with Disabilities - Special Funds allotment - Allotment Revision #24 - FY24 (PRC0063)		
11	31000	Revenue - State Public School Fund		425,982
	51000	Regular Instructional Services	425,982	
		This amendment budgets the Career Technical Education - Credential allotment - Allotment Revision #22 - FY24 (PRC0083)		
12	31000	Revenue - State Public School Fund		329,989
	53000	Alternative Programs and Services	329,989	
		This amendment budgets Literacy Intervention allotment - Allotment Revision #19 & 22 - FY24 (PRC0085)		
13	31000	Revenue - State Public School Fund		(6,379)
	51000	Regular Instructional Services	(6,379)	
		This amendment adjusts the Textbook & Digital Resources allotment for best 1 of 2 ADM reduction - Allotment Revision #20 - FY24 (PRC0131)		
14	31000	Revenue - State Public School Fund		1,054,264
	65000	Operational Support Services	1,054,264	
		This amendment budgets funds to the State Fiscal Recovery Fund - School Bus allotment - Allotment Revision #18 - FY24 (PRC0140)		
<b>Total State Public School Fund Amendments</b>			<b>1,834,040</b>	<b>1,834,040</b>

**Gaston County Schools  
Changes in Appropriations**

**2023-2024 Budget Resolution - December  
Proposed Expenditures and Sources of Revenue**

**Federal Current Expense Fund**

			Expense Increase (Decrease)	Revenue Increase (Decrease)
#	Function	Description		
1	36000	Federal Revenue		12,392
	52000	Special Population Services	12,009	
	81000	Payments to Other Governmental Units	383	
	This budgets adjusts the IDEA - Section 619 Preschool Grant - FY24 (PRC0049)			
2	36000	Federal Revenue		19,901
	S1000	Regular Instructional Services	19,901	
	This budgets adjusts the Light the Way - Rethink Grant - FY24 (PRC0146)			

**Total Local Current Expense Fund Account**

<b>32,293</b>	<b>32,293</b>
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**Gaston County Schools  
Changes in Appropriations**

**2023-2024 Budget Resolution - December  
Proposed Expenditures and Sources of Revenue**

**Restricted Grants Fund**

#	Function	Description	Expense Increase (Decrease)	Revenue Increase (Decrease)
1	48000	Local Sources - Restricted		6
	66000	Financial and Human Resource Services	6	
	This amendment budgets funds for the Central Office Administration allotment - FY24 (PRC0002)			
2	48000	Local Sources - Restricted		1,000
	52000	Special Population Services	1,000	
	This amendment budgets funds for the Academically/Intellect Gifted allotment to actual - FY24 (PRC0034)			
3	48000	Local Sources - Restricted		10,000
	71000	Community Services	10,000	
	This amendment budgets funds for the Community Use Grant - FY24 (PRC0704)			
4	48000	Local Sources - Restricted		94,590
	65000	Operational Support Services	94,590	
	This amendment budgets funds for the Ineligible Transportation Cost - Activity Bus Revenue - FY24 (PRC0706)			
5	48000	Local Sources - Restricted		3,209
	65000	Operational Support Services	3,209	
	This amendment budgets funds received for the Sale Of Scrap Metal Grant - FY24 (PRC0883)			
<b>Total Restricted Grants Fund Amendments</b>			<b>108,805</b>	<b>108,805</b>

## **Agenda Item**

**Meeting Date:** 1/26/2024

**Agenda Item Title/Topic:** Construction/Repair Change Orders

**Type of Item:** ☒ Consent      ☒ Action      ☐ Information

**Main Points:**

Attached is a listing of construction and repair change orders that were submitted since the last Board meeting. Any change orders that were less than \$100,000 were approved by the Superintendent or his designee in accordance with Board Policy 9030 – Facility Construction. Change orders greater than \$100,000 must be approved by the Board.

**Fiscal Implications:**

All change orders were prefunded prior to recommendation for approval.

**Recommendation:**

Approval of the attached listing of construction/repair change orders.

**Policy Implications:**

Policy Code: 9030 Facility Construction

**Strategic Goal Alignment:**

Other: Policy or Gen Statute. See above.

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

**Department:** Operations



<b>GCS CHANGE ORDER NOTIFICATION</b>				
In accordance with GCS Board Policy 9030 - Facility Construction, all construction and repair change orders approved by the Superintendent shall be reported to the Board. The project change requests (PCR) and change orders (CO) listed below were approved by the Superintendent, or his designee, since the previous Board meeting.				
Presented to BOE 1-26-24	Contractor's Name	Project name	Description of Change	Change Order Amount
	None			

## **Agenda Item**

**Meeting Date:** 1/26/2024

**Agenda Item Title/Topic:** Contracts and Expenditures >\$100,000

**Type of Item:** ☒ Consent      ☒ Action      ☐ Information

**Main Points:**

The attached listing of contracts and expenditures more than \$100,000 was reviewed by staff and recommended for approval by the Board, or are contracts less than \$100,000 but recommended to the Board for approval.

**Fiscal Implications:**

All contracts and expenditures will be paid using bond funding, capital proceeds or operational savings.

**Recommendation:**

Approval

**Policy Implications:**

Board Policy 8640

**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 and Operations

## **Agenda Item**

**Meeting Date:** 1/26/2024

**Agenda Item Title/Topic:** North Gaston High School – Façade and Security Vestibule Design

**Type of Item:** ☒ Consent      ☒ Action      ☐ Information

### **Main Points:**

This project continues the district's goal to improve the main entries of older schools including a vestibule for improved security, general circulation, and student and visitor experience. North Gaston High School was designed and constructed over 50 years ago. These renovations will include the entire west-facing façade and the canopy leading to the main entrance. The architectural firm of McMillan Pazdan Smith has been selected to design and oversee the construction of this project.

### **Fiscal Implications:**

The cost of designing the façade and security vestibule project is \$290,625. School bond funding will be utilized for this project.

### **Recommendation:**

Approve the contract with McMillan Pazdan Smith for architectural and engineering services for the North Gaston High School project.

### **Policy Implications:**

None

### **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:** 1/26/2024

**Agenda Item Title/Topic:** W.C. Friday Middle School – Professional Services for Entrance Improvements

**Type of Item:** ☒ Consent      ☒ Action      ☐ Information

**Main Points:**

Due to structural issues and ADA compliance challenges, we need to renovate the exterior ramps, walkways, and canopies leading to the main entrance of W.C. Friday Middle School. We also plan to improve physical security, pedestrian movement, and the visitor experience at the entrance. A request for qualifications was conducted and McMillan Pazdan Smith (MPS) was selected as the architect for the project.

**Fiscal Implications:**

This cost of the architectural and engineering services by MPS will total \$191,938. School bond funding will be utilized for this project.

**Recommendation:**

Approve contract with MPS to complete the design for an improved entrance at W.C. Friday Middle School.

**Policy Implications:**

N/A

**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:** 1/26/2024

**Agenda Item Title/Topic:** Hunter Huss High School – Professional Services for Stadium Concession and Restroom Improvements

**Type of Item:** ☒ Consent      ☒ Action      ☐ Information

### **Main Points:**

As a part of the State's FY 2022-2023 budget, Gaston County Schools received a directed grant from the Local Project Reserve for Hunter Huss High School. These funds will be used, in part, to provide restrooms and a concession building for both the home and visiting sides. This will improve safety at home athletic events by transitioning from having restrooms and concessions at one central location, to have separate facilities on the home and visitor sides of the stadium. A request for qualifications was conducted and Little Diversified Architectural Consulting (Little) was selected to design the project.

### **Fiscal Implications:**

This cost of the architectural and engineering services by Little will total \$151,125. This cost will be funded by a directed grant from the State's Local Project Reserve.

### **Recommendation:**

Approve contract with Little Diversified Architectural Consulting to complete design for the Hunter Huss High School Stadium Concession and Restroom Improvement Engineering Services.

### **Policy Implications:**

NA

### **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:** 1/26/2024

**Agenda Item Title/Topic:** Facilities Department – Vehicle Purchase

**Type of Item:** ☒ Consent      ☒ Action      ☐ Information

**Main Points:**

The District historically evaluates and replaces a few Facility vehicles every couple of years. However, as a result of supply chain issues resulting from the pandemic, we were not able to maintain this replacement schedule for several years. We recently evaluated our fleet of facility vehicles and determined that we need to replace three older vehicles and add one additional vehicle due to staffing increases. As a result, we plan to replace two F-250 Super Duty 4 X 4 trucks and one Transit 250 van and add another Transit 250 van.

**Fiscal Implications:**

Three vendors were contacted for pricing including the North Carolina State Contract. Piedmont Truck Center was the only vendor to submit a bid. We contacted the other vendors and they declined to submit a bid. The total price of \$247,403 for all four vehicles will be paid from local funds generated, in part, from prior sales of assets and scrap metal.

**Recommendation:**

Approve the purchase of four additional vehicles from Piedmont Truck Center.

**Policy Implications:**

N/A

**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:** 1/26/2024

**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:

—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-3066 Roger Perkins vs. The Gaston County Board of Education

—23-CVS-4209 Clanton 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