

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



*Shaping Our Future*

**943 Osceola Street, Gastonia, NC 28054**  
**June 16, 2025**  
**5:30 p.m.**

## **Agenda Item**

**Meeting Date:** 6/16/2025

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

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

**Main Points:**

Consideration of Formal Agenda for Monday, June 16, 2025.

Roberts Rules of Order (Revised) adoption of Agenda for meeting sequence and structure.

**Fiscal Implications:**

None

**Recommendation:**

Adoption of Agenda

**Policy Implications:**

Policy Code: 2350 Board Meeting Agenda.

**Strategic Goal Alignment:**

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

**Submitted by:** Dr. Morgen A. Houchard

**Department:** Superintendent

# **GASTON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**Josh Crisp – Chairman**

**Dot Cherry – Vice Chairman**

Lee Dedmon, Gastonia Township  
Tod Kinlaw, South Point Township  
Robbie Lovelace, Cherryville Township  
Brent Moore, Crowders Mountain Township



Jeff K. Ramsey, At Large  
Janna Smith, Gastonia Township  
A.M. Stephens, III, Riverbend Township

Dr. Morgen A. Houchard, Superintendent  
943 Osceola Street, Gastonia, NC 28054

Monday, June 16, 2025

5:30 p.m.

Agenda

Regular Meeting

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## **Agenda Item**

**Meeting Date:** 6/16/2025

**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:** June 2025

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1. **Gaston County Schools** had 28 students in the Class of 2025 to earn valedictorian or salutatorian honors. The students were recognized during high school graduation for their commitment to academic excellence.
2. The **Gaston County Schools** Class of 2025 was awarded more than \$35 million in scholarships.
3. **Gaston County Schools** conducted its annual retirement celebration on June 5 at CaroMont Health Park. More than 100 retirees and guests enjoyed food, fellowship, and the Gastonia Ghost Peppers baseball game. It was a casual and relaxing atmosphere to recognize this year's retirees and thank them for their dedication and service.
4. For the third consecutive year, **Gaston County Schools** received the Golden Eagle Award from the United Way of Gaston County for having the highest fundraising total of any business/organization participating in the 2024-2025 campaign. Nearly \$132,000 (a record amount) was raised by our schools and central level departments. The funds will go toward the United Way's efforts to support programs related to three areas: education, health and wellness, and financial stability.
5. **Gaston County Schools** held a Career Signing Day program for nine seniors to sign a "letter of intent" and accept a job offer with one of five companies. The following students were recognized during the program: **Blake Stewart, North Gaston High School**, GSM Services; **Cameron Phelps, Bessemer City High School**, GSM Services; **Felipe Acosta Velazquez, Stuart W. Cramer High School**, GSM Services; **Devin Patterson, Ashbrook High School**, Dixon Quick Coupling; **Brandon Pagan, Ashbrook High School**, Dixon Quick Coupling; **William Bagent, North Gaston High School**, Webb Metals Recycling; **Matthew York, East Gaston High School**; MyConstruction; **Mayson Maag, Hunter Huss High School**, Blum; and **Ayden Stines, North Gaston High School**, Blum.
6. The **Gaston County Schools** Academic Services Department coordinated a two-day leadership conference for principals and assistant principals on June 4-5 at **Forestview High School**. The professional development centered around academic performance and student proficiency for the 2025-2026 year. The sessions were well-planned, engaging, and beneficial, and they were designed to complement the "Lights, Camera, ACTION" theme with emphasis on taking action in the new school year to improve student achievement.

7. **Josh Bromley**, principal at **Belmont Middle School**, was selected as the GCAEOP (Gaston County Association of Educational Office Professionals) Administrator of the Year, and **Cherri Johnston**, data manager at **Belmont Middle School**, was selected as the GCAEOP Educational Office Professional of the Year. GCAEOP also presented its annual scholarships to **Kushi Patel** of **Highland School of Technology** and **Jayden Surratt** of **South Point High School**.
8. The recipients of the 2024-2025 Tracy Lea Calhoun Award are **David Hedgepath** from **North Gaston High School**, **Randy Helms** from **Belmont Middle School**, **Ericka Gains** from **Belmont Central Elementary**, and **Terry Sherrill** from **Webb Street School**. The award is given each year to bus drivers who go beyond expectations and demonstrate a commitment to school bus safety.
9. The following students have been awarded the State Employees' Credit Union "People Helping People" Scholarship valued at \$10,000: **Elliott Stone**, **Gaston Early College High School**; **Abigail Fallin**, **Highland School of Technology**; **Carson Reed**, **Cherryville High School**; **Rachel Tolbert**, **South Point High School**; **Carley Carpenter**, **Stuart W. Cramer High School**; and **Daniel Denton**, **Lilly Friday**, and **Cameron Cannon**, all from **Forestview High School**.
10. The following students are recipients of scholarships presented by the Community Foundation of Gaston County: **Cadee Dobbins**, **Cherryville High School**, **Alaina N. Abernathy Scholarship** **Clyde and Dezaree Brackett Family Scholarship** and **William and Hazel Education Scholarship**; **K'mari Spikes**, **North Gaston High School**, **George and Patricia Barnard Scholarship**; **Jorel Breeden**, **Highland School of Technology**, **George and Patricia Barnard Scholarship**; **Khusi Patel**, **Highland School of Technology**, **Bancroft Poston Scholarship** and **Honorable Ralph C. Gingles, Jr. Scholarship**; **Evelyn Gutierrez Lira**, **Gaston Early College High School of Medical Sciences**, **Bess Chapel UMC/Brad Baxter Scholarship** and **Daniel C. Ragan Scholarship**; **Macie Bridgeman**, **South Point High School**, **Alfred W. Bohanan Scholarship**; **Cameron Browning**, **Gaston Early College High School**, **Tom Browne Scholarship**; **Kwaaba Eshun**, **Forestview High School**, **Mary Armstrong Coffey Scholarship**; **Avery Beam**, **Cherryville High School**, **Van and Vergie Costner Memorial Scholarship**; **Charlie Price**, **South Point High School**, **Perry Fewell Honorary Leadership Scholarship**; **Carli Phillips**, **Max J. Fowler Scholarship**; **John-Thomas McQuay**, **South Point High School**, **Pat E. Haney Scholarship**; **Luke Denton**, **Forestview High School**, **John Hunsucker Memorial Scholarship**; **Reegan Racz**, **Highland School of Technology**, **Dr. William and Karen Hunter Science Scholarship**; **Piper Summey**, **Abigail Rink**, and **Ellory Lamp** of **Stuart W. Cramer High School**, **Maxine Porch Scholarship**; **Luna Peterkin**, **Highland School of Technology**, **Mildred J. Sadler Scholarship**; **James Bowen**, **South Point High School**, **Theodore Drury Stowe Science and Technology Scholarship**; and **Vidhi Patel**, **Gaston Early College of Medical Sciences**, **John E. Willoughby Scholarship**.
11. Representatives from EPI (Educational Partners International) were at **Forestview High School** recently to record a video feature about **John Ramos**, who won the **Gaston County Schools Teacher of the Year** award for 2025-2026.

12. **John Ramos** of **Forestview High School**, the **Gaston County Schools** Teacher of the Year for 2025-2026, received a new Kia K4 from Courage Kia in Gastonia. This is the third consecutive year that Courage Kia has provided a vehicle lease agreement to the county-level Teacher of the Year winner.
13. All students in the Nursing Fundamentals program at **Forestview High School** passed both the written and skills exams to earn certification as a Nurse Aide I in North Carolina.
14. **Darryl Thompson**, Engineering and Graphics Academy coordinator at **Highland School of Technology**, was named the 2025 Technology Student Association (TSA) Chapter Advisor of the Year.
15. **Peter Jones** and **Jeanette Rodillas**, teachers at **North Gaston High School**, have been named ExploreLearning Gizmos Teacher Leaders for **Gaston County Schools** for the 2024-25 school year. In addition, Jones was recognized as a Top Teacher, and North Gaston High School earned the distinguished honor of being named one of the Top Schools for outstanding STEM instruction and innovative use of Gizmos.
16. For the third consecutive year, all 21 varsity athletic teams at **South Point High School** earned “Scholar-Athlete” team honors from the North Carolina High School Athletic Association. In addition, South Point won the Wells Fargo Cup for the Big South 3A Conference for the 2024-2025 school year. This marks the sixth time in the past eight years the school has received the award, which recognizes overall athletic success across all varsity sports.
17. The **South Point High School** boys’ tennis team won its second consecutive 3A dual championship and finished the season with a 19-1 record. **Brandon Cunningham** earned MVP honors for the Dual Team Championships, and **Asher Dover** was named a 2025 N.C. Farm Bureau Sportsmanship Award winner.
18. The **South Point High School** girls’ soccer team won the western regionals championship and secured their third consecutive trip to the North Carolina High School Athletic Association (NCHSAA) 3A state championship. The team finished the season as Big South 3A Conference champions with a record of 21-4-2, despite a loss in the state championship to Western Alamance. Junior **Taylor Culbertson** was honored before the game as the NCHSAA Sportsmanship Award winner. Additionally, junior **Grace Maynard** was named to the North Carolina Soccer Coaches Association (NCSCA) 3A all-state team.
19. **Stanley Middle School** competed in the North Carolina Envirothon in May at Cedarrock Park in Burlington. For the second year in a row, **Stanley Middle School** was the highest-scoring public school team in the state at the middle school level. The school’s “Crazy Crawdads” team placed first in the Current Environmental Issue category and fifth overall. The “Antarctic Armadillos” team finished eighth, and “The Smarties” team placed tenth.



20. **Stuart Cramer High School's** yearbook, *The Procella*, has been honored for its outstanding design and inclusivity by being featured in the Jostens Look Book 2025, which showcases top yearbooks from across the country. The yearbook was created by students **Sontee Stowe, Holly Sherbert, Ava Mercer, Abigail Rink, and Amyrrah Hodge**, with guidance from their adviser, **Kristie Smith**.
21. **Rylee Jordan** of **Tryon Elementary School** was recognized for reading 55 books in two months as part of the "Flash A Light on Literacy" reading program. She read the most books and earned a special ride in a Tryonota Fire Department fire truck. In addition, the fourth grade won a pizza party for reading the most books; the students read a total of 521 books.

## **Agenda Item**

**Meeting Date:** 6/16/2025

**Agenda Item Title/Topic:** Classroom Moment

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

**Main Points:**

Information will be shared about the James S. Forrester Commissioners' School of Excellence. This summer program has operated since 1986, providing students from across Gaston County an opportunity to develop their leadership skills and prepare for their roles as future leaders in our community.

**Fiscal Implications:**

N/A

**Recommendation:**

N/A

**Policy Implications:**

N/A

**Strategic Goal Alignment:**

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

**Submitted by:** Dr. Bryan Denton & Kevin Doran, Executive Directors of Secondary Instruction

**Department:** Academic Services

## **Agenda Item**

**Meeting Date:** 6/16/2025

**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) during 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:**

Policy Code: 2310 Public Participation at Board Meetings.

**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:** 6/16/2025

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

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

**Main Points:**

Approval of Minutes from:  
May 19, 2025 (Regular Meeting)

Efficient consideration of matters pertinent to the successful operation of the school system. Contributes to validation of Board Proceedings and is consistent with the Open Meetings Law.

**Fiscal Implications:**

None

**Recommendation:**

The Board will approve accurate minutes consistent with the Open Meetings Law.

**Policy Implications:**

Policy Code: 2320 Compliance with the Open Meetings Law.

**Strategic Goal Alignment:**

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

**Submitted by:** Dr. Morgen A. Houchard

**Department:** Superintendent

Gaston County Schools  
Board of Education  
Monday, May 19 2025  
Meeting 5:30 p.m.  
Regular Meeting

MINUTES

The Gaston County Board of Education met in a regular session on Monday, May 19, 2025 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 Josh Crisp, Vice Chairman Dot Cherry, Lee Dedmon, Tod Kinlaw, Robbie Lovelace, Brent Moore (absent), Jeff Ramsey, Janna Smith and A.M. Stephens III (absent).

Additional attendees include: Superintendent Dr. Morgen A. Houchard, Attorney Sonya McGraw, Associate Superintendents Gary Hoskins and Tonya Kales, Chief Communications Officer Todd Hagans, Chief Technology Officer Curtis Poplin and Board Clerk Dana Luoto.

Chairman Crisp called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and welcomed everyone.

**Invocation**

Pastor Tripp Hord from First United Methodist Church of Bessemer City led the invocation.

**Character Trait**

Britney Briceno Velez, Lowell Elementary School, reported on the Character Trait of Self Discipline.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Lilianna Johnson, Declan Lewis and Zayanna Crawford, Bessemer City Middle School led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Agenda Adoption - Action**

The Board considered Agenda Adoption – Action

Chairman Josh Crisp requested that the Driver Education item be pulled from the Consent Agenda and placed on the Regular Agenda for further discussion. This will now become item XIII on the agenda.

Mrs. Robbie Lovelace requested that the Substitute Staff Placement Services – ESS Southeast, LLC item be pulled from the Consent Agenda and placed on the Regular Agenda for further discussion. This will now become item XIV on the agenda.

Motion to adopt the Agenda as amended was made by Mr. Lee Dedmon; seconded by Ms. Dot Cherry; motion carried unanimously. (7-0)

**Good News – Information**

Mr. Todd Hagans recognized Roy Powers from Cherryville High School. Roy has received a prestigious appointment to attend the United States Merchant Marine Academy in Kings Point, New York. Roy is one of approximately 280 appointees selected from a pool of about 1,700 applicants. An appointment to the Academy is equivalent of a \$300,000 scholarship over a four-year period.

Mrs. Robbie Lovelace presented Roy with a Certificate of Recognition.

Mr. Todd Hagans recognized students who were nominated for Best Actor and Best Actress in the Blumey Awards. The Blumeys is a program that recognizes excellence in high school theater arts in the greater Charlotte area.

### **Ashbrook High School**

Jahlani Young who played Patrick Star in *The SpongeBob Musical*

Andrea Velazquez who played SpongeBob SquarePants in *The SpongeBob Musical*

### **Highland School of Technology**

Jayce Walsh who played Leaf Conebear in *The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*

Lynn Mercado who portrayed Mitch Mahoney and Dan Schwarz in *The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*

### **North Gaston High School**

Trenton Taylor-Bolen who played Damian Hubbard in *Means Girls: High School Version*

Bailey Griggs who took on the role of Regina George in *Means Girls: High School Version*

Mrs. Janna Smith presented a Certificate of Recognition to each student.

Mr. Todd Hagans recognized Officer Jamie Burr School Resource Officer at Forestview High School who was named the Officer of the Quarter by the Gaston County Police Department. Officer Burr goes above and beyond to support the students and staff at Forestview, both during the school day and after hours. He has earned the respect of administrators, staff, and students by building strong relationships and working hard to keep the campus safe.

Dot Cherry presented a Recognition Plaque to Officer Burr.

Mr. Todd Hagans recognized Christelle Corpin from Stuart Cramer High School. Ms. Corpin has been named the EPI (Educational Partners International) Teacher of the Year for North Carolina and she was also honored with the Chick-Fil-A Leader Academy Scholar Award for her outstanding leadership and service to the Stuart W. Cramer High School community.

Ms. Dot Cherry presented a Recognition Plaque to Ms. Corpin.

Mr. Todd Hagans recognized the Stuart W. Cramer High School Battle of the Books team — Ellory Lamp, Kayla Matthews, Lizzy-Jane Ross, Ann Sproul, Piper Summey, Molly Sutphin, Bhadra Vineetha and their coach and school library media coordinator, Vanessa Griffith. Team members are encouraged, but not required, to read all 16 selected books, which include both fiction and nonfiction and total more than 5,225 pages. These students won the local Battle of the Books competition, went on to win the regional contest, and finished third in the state competition.

Mr. Jeff Ramsey presented a Certificate of Recognition to each student.

Mr. Todd Hagans recognized the Stuart W. Cramer High School boys' first ever state championship golf team — Lane Crotts, Aiden Vargosko, Britton Steede, Drew Mercer, Ian Irish, Trip Stacey,

Luke Stephens, head coach Ben McMillan and assistant coach Matthew Jackson. Last week, at Gates Four Golf and Country Club in Fayetteville, Stuart W. Cramer captured its first North Carolina High School Athletic Association Boys' Golf Championship — and the school's first team title — by defeating two-time defending champion Terry Sanford.

Mr. Jeff Ramsey presented a Certificate of Recognition to each student.

Mr. Todd Hagans recognized James Dover and Rex Dover from South Point High School. On Saturday, May 10, the Dover brothers made school history by winning the 3A boys' doubles tennis state championship. They defeated the doubles team from East Lincoln High School with a final score of 6-3, 6-2.

Mr. Tod Kinlaw presented a Certificate of Recognition to each student.

Mr. Todd Hagans recognized the South Point High School boys' tennis team — James Dover, Rex Dover, Brandon Cunningham, Tyler Cunningham, Caleb Dellinger, Asher Dover, Spencer Hollifield, Austin Kellogg, Justin Koehler, Andrew Langley, Samuel Morgan, Shiv Patel, Shin Roh, and Griffin Williams. South Point High School has repeated as the 3A Dual Team State Champions in boys' tennis. The championship came down to the final doubles match at the N.C. High School Athletic Association 3A Boys Dual Team Tennis State Championship, held at the Burlington Tennis Center.

Mr. Tod Kinlaw presented a Certificate of Recognition to each student.

Mr. Todd Hagans recognized our school athletic directors and Chad Duncan our County Athletic Director. These are the people working behind the scenes to make our athletic programs successful. Athletic directors are the heart of school sports. They run the entire athletic program, hire coaches, build game schedules, and make sure every sport follows the rules. They also manage budgets, care for athletic facilities, and help build school spirit through sports.

Chairman Crisp presented a Recognition Plaque to the group.

### **Classroom Moment – Information**

Chairman Crisp recognized Dr. Bryan Denton and Kevin Doran, Executive Directors who presented a PowerPoint on Graduation Celebrations.

(View PowerPoint)

### **Public Expression – Information**

Martha Stowe  
3132 Channel View  
Belmont, NC 28012  
RE: Theater Programs and Funding

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

Motion to adopt minutes of April 1, 2025 (Joint BOE/BOC Meeting) and April 14, 2025 (Regular Meeting) as presented was made by Mrs. Janna Smith; seconded by Mr. Lee Dedmon; motion carried unanimously. (7-0)

### **Operations Committee Report – Information**

Brent Moore is chair of the committee and members are Dot Cherry, Lee Dedmon and Tod Kinlaw. Chairman Crisp recognized Ms. Dot Cherry who provided a summary of topics considered and discussed at the most recent meeting.

(View Report)

### **Curriculum & Instruction Committee Report – Information**

Jeff Ramsey is chair of the committee and members are Robbie Lovelace, Janna Smith and A.M. Stephens III. Chairman Crisp recognized Mrs. Janna Smith who provided a summary of topics considered and discussed at the most recent meeting.

(View Report)

### **School Nutrition Annual Report – Information**

Chairman Crisp recognized Mrs. Angela Calamia, School Nutrition Director, who presented a PowerPoint on the School Nutrition Annual Report.

(View PowerPoint)

### **School Nutrition Formal Bids 2025-2026 – Action**

Chairman Crisp recognized Mrs. Angela Calamia who asked the Board to consider approval of the 2025-2026 formal bids for the period beginning August 1, 2025 – July 31 2026.

#### **Motion**

The Motion was made by Mr. Jeff Ramsey; seconded by Mrs. Janna Smith that the Board  
**Approve the 2025-2026 School Nutrition Formal Bids**

A vote was taken and motion to approve the item as presented carried unanimously. (7-0)

### **Driver Education (Removed from Consent Agenda for discussion) – Action**

Discussion occurred concerning the North Carolina Driving School.

#### **Motion**

The Motion was made by Ms. Dot Cherry; seconded by Mr. Jeff Ramsey that the Board  
**Approve the Driver Education Contract**

A vote was taken and motion to approve the item as presented carried unanimously. (6-1)  
Chairman Crisp voted against.

### **Substitute Staff Placement Services — ESS Southeast, LLC – (Removed from Consent Agenda for discussion) – Action**

Discussion occurred concerning the Substitute Staff Placement Services.

#### **Motion**

The Motion was made by Mr. Ramsey; seconded by Mr. Lee Dedmon that the Board  
**Approve the Substitute Placement Services — ESS Southeast, LLC Contract**



A vote was taken and motion to approve the item as presented carried unanimously. (5-2)  
Chairman Crisp, Ms. Dot Cherry, Mr. Lee Dedmon, Mr. Jeff Ramsey and Mrs. Janna Smith voted for.  
Mr. Tod Kinlaw and Mrs. Robbie Lovelace voted against.

### **Consent Agenda – Action**

The Board considered the Consent Agenda:

- A. Recommended Personnel
- B. Budget Amendments & Budget Transfers
- C. Construction/Repair Change Orders
- D. Armstrong Property Purchase
- E. Contracts
  - Replacement of AX JACE Controllers
  - Grier Middle School Graphics
  - Educator’s Handbook (K-12)
  - Federal Programs Proposed Budget for 2025-2026
  - Annual Engagement Letter with Independent Auditors

Motion to adopt the Consent Agenda as presented was made by Mrs. Janna Smith; seconded by Mr. Lee Dedmon motion carried unanimously. (7-0)

### **Superintendent’s Comments**

Superintendent Houchard announced that the end of the 2024-2025 school year is almost here. Wednesday, May 21, is the last day of school for students. We want to thank everyone in the Gaston County Schools family for giving us a productive and successful year, and we hope everyone enjoys their summer break. Wednesday, August 13 – the first day of school for students – will be here before we know it.

Superintendent Houchard announced that our graduation season for the Class of 2025 begins tomorrow. We have two ceremonies on Tuesday in the Myers Center at Gaston College. The Gaston Early College High School graduation ceremony is at 3:00 p.m., followed by Gaston Early College High School of Medical Sciences ceremony at 6:00 p.m. We have three graduations on Wednesday — Gaston Virtual Academy at 9:00 a.m., Webb Street School at 11:00 a.m. and Warlick Academy at 2:00 p.m. On Friday evening, May 23, at 6:00 p.m., we will celebrate the Class of 2025 from ten of our traditional high schools with graduation ceremonies.

Superintendent Houchard announced that earlier this month we held our Evening of Excellence Ceremony to recognize outstanding educators and announced our “Of the Year” winners for 2025-2026.

Superintendent Houchard reminded everyone that Memorial Day is Monday, May 26, and our schools and central office buildings will be closed as it is a holiday for all employees.

Superintendent Houchard announced that we will implement our summer work schedule beginning Monday, June 2. Our schools and central department offices will be open Monday through Thursday from 7:00 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. and closed on Friday. The summer schedule will continue through Friday, August 1.

### **Closed Session**

Chairman Crisp asked the Board to consider going into Closed Session under, N.C.G.S. §143-318.11(a)(3) Consultation with Attorney, N.C.G.S. §143-318.11(a)(5) Real Property and N.C.G.S. §143-318.11(a)(6) Personnel.

Motion to go into Closed Session was made by Ms. Dot Cherry; seconded by Mrs. Janna Smith; motion carried unanimously. (7-0)

The Board went into Closed Session at 7:10 p.m.

The Board returned to Open Session at 7:39 p.m.

### **Motion**

The Motion was made by Ms. Dot Cherry; seconded by Mrs. Janna Smith that the Board  
**Award a two-year Assistant Principal contracts for the following:**

- Holly Adams
- Elizabeth Akins
- Whitney Hill
- Sydney McDaniel
- Leah Somers
- Monica Sherer

A vote was taken and motion to approve the item as presented carried unanimously. (7-0)

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

- Kathleen D'Avria
- Jennifer Lancaster
- Tonya Morris
- Lauren Stefaniak

A vote was taken and motion to approve the item as presented carried unanimously. (7-0)

Superintendent Houchard announced the following Principal placements:

- Kathleen D'Avria –Assigned to Southwest Middle School.
- Jennifer Lancaster –Assigned to Kiser Elementary School.
- Tonya Morris – Assigned to Robinson Elementary.
- William Winston – Assigned to Holbrook Middle School.
- Lauren Stefaniak – Assigned to Carr Elementary.

**Adjournment**

All business having been conducted, Motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Lee Dedmon; seconded by Mr. Jeff Ramsey motion carried unanimously. (7-0)

The Board Meeting adjourned at 7:41 p.m.

Approved:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Josh Crisp, Chairman  
[Corporate Seal]

\_\_\_\_\_  
Morgen A. Houchard, Secretary

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

## **Agenda Item**

**Meeting Date:** 6/16/2025

**Agenda Item Title/Topic:** Operations Committee Report

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

**Main Points:**

The Gaston County Board of Education's Operations Committee meets regularly to discuss operations-related projects and issues. Brent Moore is chair of the committee and members are Dot Cherry, Lee Dedmon and Tod Kinlaw. A report of the Operations Committee's actions and discussions will be made at the Board meeting by a member of the Committee.

**Fiscal Implications:**

As indicated in the report.

**Recommendation:**

Committee recommendations are reflected in the report.

**Policy Implications:**

Policy Code: 2230 Board Committees

**Strategic Goal Alignment:**

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

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

**Department:** Finance

## **Agenda Item**

**Meeting Date:** 6/16/2025

**Agenda Item Title/Topic:** Curriculum & Instruction Committee Report

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

**Main Points:**

The Gaston County Board of Education's Curriculum & Instruction Committee meets regularly to discuss curriculum and instruction-related topics and issues. Jeff Ramsey is chair of the committee and members are Robbie Lovelace, Janna Smith and A.M. Stephens III. A report of the Curriculum & Instruction Committee's actions and discussions will be made at the Board meeting by a member of the Committee.

**Fiscal Implications:**

As indicated in the report.

**Recommendation:**

Committee recommendations are reflected in the report.

**Policy Implications:**

Policy Code: 2230 Board Committees

**Strategic Goal Alignment:**

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

**Submitted by:** Curriculum and Instruction Committee

**Department:** Curriculum and Instruction

## **Agenda Item**

**Meeting Date:** 6/16/2025

**Agenda Item Title/Topic:** 2025-2026 Interim Budget

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

**Main Points:**

The 2025-2026 Gaston County Schools Budget Resolution will not be approved prior to July 1, 2025, since the 2025-2026 State budget has not yet been finalized. The School Budget and Fiscal Control Act (G.S. 115C-434. Interim budget) requires that the Board of Education make interim appropriations for the purpose of paying salaries and other usual expenses for the interval of time between the start of the fiscal year and the adoption of a budget resolution. These interim appropriations will be charged to the proper appropriations in the final 2025-2026 adopted budget resolution.

**Fiscal Implications:**

2025-2026 GCS Budget

**Recommendation:**

Approve the 2025-2026 Interim Budget at the level of 80% of the 2024-2025 Budget

**Policy Implications:**

Policy Code: 8300 Fiscal Management Standards and G.S. 115C-434. Interim budget

**Strategic Goal Alignment:**

Other: Policy or Gen Statute. See above.

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

**Department:** Finance

## **Agenda Item**

**Meeting Date:** 6/16/2025

**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. CTE Grant
- E. Alternative School's Modified Accountability System – Warlick Academy
- G. Alternative School's Modified Accountability System – Webb Street School
- F. Contracts
  - Academic Services Resources and Contract Services
  - No Nonsense Nurturer Professional Development
  - Holbrook Middle School Boiler Replacement
  - Holbrook Middle School Canopy & Walkway Replacement, Tree Removal and Grading
  - Security Vestibule Design for Ashbrook High School, Bessemer City Primary School, East Gaston High School and Sherwood Elementary School
  - Hunter Huss High School Boiler Replacement
  - DRM (Finance) Roof Replacement

**Fiscal Implications:**

As state din each Agenda item.

**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:**

Policy Code: 1010 Board Authority and Duties.

**Strategic Goal Alignment:**

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

**Submitted by:** Dr. Morgen A. Houchard

**Department:** Superintendent

## **Agenda Item**

**Meeting Date:** 6/16/2025

**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:**

Policy Code: 7100 Recruitment and Selection of Personnel.

**Strategic Goal Alignment:**

Goal 3. Every employee is capable and committed to the education of the whole child.

**Submitted by:** Dr. Morgen A. Houchard

**Department:** Human Resources



## **Agenda Item**

**Meeting Date:** 6/16/2025

**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 2024-2025 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

**Department:** Finance

**Gaston County Schools**  
**Changes in Appropriations**  
**2024-2025 Budget Resolution - May**  
**Transfers Between Functions**

**State Public School Fund**

Function	Description	Expense Increase	Expense Decrease
51000	Regular Instructional Services		460,685
52000	Special Population Services	242,532	
53000	Alternative Programs and Services	207,267	
58000	School-Based Support Services		2,500
61000	Support and Development Services		55
65000	Operational Support Services	13,442	
		<u>463,240</u>	<u>463,240</u>

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

**Gaston County Schools**  
**Changes in Appropriations**  
**2024-2025 Budget Resolution - May**  
**Transfers Between Functions**

**Local Current Expense Fund**

Function	Description	Expense Increase	Expense Decrease
51000	Regular Instructional Services		31,186
53000	Alternative Programs and Services	3,165	
61000	Support and Development Services	53,191	
63000	Alternative Programs and Services - Support and Development Services	6,802	
64000	Technology Support Services	17,023	
65000	Operational Support Services		185,489
66000	Financial and Human Resource Services	156,518	
68000	System-Wide Pupil Support Services		14,775
69000	Policy, Leadership and Communication/Public Information Services		5,250
		<u>236,701</u>	<u>236,701</u>

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

Gaston County Schools  
Changes in Appropriations  
2024-2025 Budget Resolution - May  
Transfers Between Functions

**Federal Grants Fund**

Function	Description	Expense Increase	Expense Decrease
51000	Regular Instructional Services		612
52000	Special Population Services		129,771
53000	Alternative Programs and Services	63,824	
61000	Support and Development Services	612	
62000	Special Population Support and Development Services	65,556	
65000	Operational Support Services	627	
81000	Payments to Other Governmental Units		236
		<u>130,619</u>	<u>130,619</u>

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

**Gaston County Schools**  
**Changes in Appropriations**  
**2024-2025 Budget Resolution - May**  
**Transfers Between Functions**

**Restricted Grants Fund**

Function	Description	Expense Increase	Expense Decrease
51000	Regular Instructional Services		6,640
52000	Special Population Services	1,230,022	
53000	Alternative Programs and Services		1,229,531
66000	Financial and Human Resource Services	6,640	
81000	Payments to Other Governmental Units		491
		<u>1,236,662</u>	<u>1,236,662</u>

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

**Gaston County Schools**  
**Changes in Appropriations**  
**2024-2025 Budget Resolution - May**  
**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		84,132
	58000	School-Based Support Services	34,132	
	65000	Operational Support Services	50,000	
	This amendment budgets funds for the Non-Contributory Employee Benefits allotment - FY25 (PRC0009)			
2	31000	Revenue - State Public School Fund		(395,273)
	52000	Special Population Services	(395,273)	
	This amendment adjusts funds for the Career Technical Education -Months allotment - ABC Transfer - Allotment Revision #93 - FY25 (PRC0013)			
3	31000	Revenue - State Public School Fund		395,273
	51000	Regular Instructional Services	395,273	
	This amendment budgets funds for the Career Technical Education -Program Support allotment - ABC Transfer - Allotment Revision #93 - FY25 (PRC0014)			
<b>Total State Public School Fund Amendments</b>			<b>84,132</b>	<b>84,132</b>

**Gaston County Schools**  
**Changes in Appropriations**  
**2024-2025 Budget Resolution - May**  
**Proposed Expenditures and Sources of Revenue**

**Restricted Grants Fund**

#	Function	Description	Expense Increase (Decrease)	Revenue Increase (Decrease)
1	48900	Revenue - State Public School Fund		15,500
	51000	Regular Instructional Services	15,500	
		This amendment budgets funds for the Drivers' Education allotment - Allotment Revision #80- FY25 (PRC0012)		
2	48000	Local Sources - Restricted		7,073
	52000	Special Population Services	7,073	
		This amendment budgets funds for the Academically/Intellect Gifted Allotment - FY25 (PRC0034)		
3	48000	Local Sources - Restricted		(247)
	58000	School-Based Support Services	(247)	
		This amendment budgets funds for the School Resource Officers Allotment - FY25 (PRC0039)		
4	48000	Local Sources - Restricted		250,290
	51000	Regular Instructional Services	250,290	
		This amendment budgets funds for the Instructional/Student Support Allotment - FY25 (PRC0216)		
5	48000	Local Sources - Restricted		335,610
	52000	Special Population Services	335,610	
		This amendment budgets funds for the Medicaid Adm. Outreach Allotment - FY25 (PRC0305)		
6	48000	Local Sources - Restricted		2,936
	51000	Regular Instructional Services	2,936	
		This amendment budgets funds for the Webb Street School Fund - FY25 (PRC0394)		
7	48000	Local Sources - Restricted		(23,276)
	51000	Regular Instructional Services	(23,276)	
		This amendment budgets funds for the Teacher/Admin Of The Year Fund - FY25 (PRC0508)		
8	48000	Local Sources - Restricted		270
	66000	Financial and Human Resource Services	270	
		This amendment budgets funds for the Human Resources-Id Badges Fund - FY25 (PRC0528)		

# **Restricted Grants Fund**

#	Function	Description	Expense Increase (Decrease)	Revenue Increase (Decrease)
9	48000	Local Sources - Restricted		15,000
	58000	School-Based Support Services	15,000	
	This amendment budgets funds for the Business Partnership Brochure Fund - FY25 (PRC0539)			
10	48000	Local Sources - Restricted		(471)
	51000	Regular Instructional Services	(471)	
	This amendment budgets funds for the Positions From School Fund - FY25 (PRC0540)			
11	48000	Local Sources - Restricted		2,823
	51000	Regular Instructional Services	2,823	
	This amendment budgets funds for the Commissioners' School Allotment - FY25 (PRC0607)			
12	48000	Local Sources - Restricted		15,391
	68000	System-Wide Pupil Support Services	15,391	
	This amendment budgets funds for the Local Records Requests Fees Fund - FY25 (PRC0700)			
13	44000	Local Sources - Restricted		38,856
	51000	Alternative Programs and Services		
	71000	Community Services	38,856	
	This amendment budgets funds for the Community Use Fund - FY25 (PRC0704)			
14	48000	Local Sources - Restricted		197,731
	65000	Operational Support Services	197,731	
	This amendment budgets funds for the Ineligible Transportation Cost Fund - FY25 (PRC0706)			
15	48000	Local Sources - Restricted		3,268
	66000	Financial and Human Resource Services	3,268	
	This amendment budgets funds for the Insurance Fund - FY25 (PRC0840)			
16	48000	Local Sources - Restricted		430
	65000	Operational Support Services	430	
	This amendment budgets funds for the Facilities-Fixed Asset Sales Fund - FY25 (PRC0881)			
17	48000	Local Sources - Restricted		1,992
	65000	Operational Support Services	1,992	
	This amendment budgets funds for the Sale Of Scrap Metal Fund - FY25 (PRC0883)			
<b>Total Restricted Grants Fund Amendments</b>			<b>863,177</b>	<b>863,177</b>



## **Agenda Item**

**Meeting Date:** 6/16/2025

**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:** Bessie Harvey, Assistant  
Superintendent of Operations

**Department:** Facilities

# **GCS CHANGE ORDER NOTIFICATION**

In accordance with GCS Board Policy 9030 - Facility Construction, all construction and repair change orders approved by the Superintendent, or his designee, shall be reported to the Board. In addition, any change orders that involve amounts over \$100,000 must be approved by the Board. This GCS Change Order Notification provides the required information for change orders \$100,000 or less that have already been approved by the Superintendent, or his designee, and change orders over \$100,000 that need Board approval.

Presented to BOE	Contractor's Name	Project name	Description of Change	Contract Amount	Change Order Amount
6-16-25	None				

## Agenda Item

**Meeting Date:** 6/16/2025

**Agenda Item Title/Topic:** CTE Grant

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

**Main Points:**

The Local Application incorporates the mandatory uses of all applicable state and federal laws that govern CTE in North Carolina. This application must be submitted to the Department of Public Instruction to receive and use state and federal funds for Career and Technical Education programs and services in grades 5-12 for the 2025-2026 fiscal year. The plan is driven by the *Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Act* or Perkins V.

The full funding application can be reviewed using the link below.

<https://ccip.schools.nc.gov/Funding/Sections/Default.aspx?ccipSessionKey=638842910015230070>

**Fiscal Implications:**

PRC 013 – CTE Salaries – \$10,610,625

PRC 014 – State Program Support - \$495,005

PRC 017 – Federal Program Improvement - \$569,983

Total – Career and Technical Education Funding for 2025-2026 - \$11,675,613

*Note: As of the date of this document, the final amount of federal program improvement funds allotted to Gaston County Schools has not been received from the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction. The amount presented is estimated based on the prior year's allotment.*

**Recommendation:**

Approval of funding application.

**Policy Implications:**

None

**Strategic Goal Alignment:**

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

**Submitted by:** Russell Parker      **Department:** Career & Technical Education

## **Agenda Item**

**Meeting Date:** 6/16/2025

**Agenda Item Title/Topic:** Alternative School's Modified Accountability System —  
Warlick Academy

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

### **Main Points:**

The Alternative School's Modified Accountability System was developed to provide accountability information for eligible school, Warlick Academy. Warlick Academy continues to meet the eligibility criteria to participate in the alternative system and will continue to use the same model option, B, that has been used in previous years.

### **Fiscal Implications:**

None

### **Recommendation:**

To approve participation in the Alternative School's Modified Accountability System

### **Policy Implications:**

None

### **Strategic Goal Alignment:**

Goal 2. Every member of our diverse population has the opportunity for individualized instruction.

**Submitted by:** Kelly Cunningham

**Department:** Accountability

## **Agenda Item**

**Meeting Date:** 6/16/2025

**Agenda Item Title/Topic:** Alternative School's Modified Accountability System—  
Webb Street School

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

**Main Points:**

The Alternative School's Modified Accountability System was developed to provide accountability information for eligible school, Webb Street School. Webb Street School continues to meet the eligibility criteria to participate in the alternative system and will continue to use the same model option, B, that has been used in previous years.

**Fiscal Implications:**

None

**Recommendation:**

To approve participation in the Alternative School's Modified Accountability System

**Policy Implications:**

None

**Strategic Goal Alignment:**

Goal 2. Every member of our diverse population has the opportunity for individualized instruction.

**Submitted by:** Kelly Cunningham

**Department:** Accountability

## **Agenda Item**

**Meeting Date:** 6/16/2025

**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 of Contracts with the Board.

**Policy Implications:**

Policy Code: 8640 Contracts with the Board.

**Strategic Goal Alignment:**

Other: Policy or Gen Statute. See above.

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

**Department:** Finance

## **Agenda Item**

**Meeting Date:**

**Agenda Item Title/Topic: Academic Services Resources and Contract Services**

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

**Main Points:**

Academic Services presented the following information on resources and contracts that will be utilized during the 2024-2025 school year during the May 6, 2024 Curriculum & Instruction work session. These resources will provide staff members with the necessary research-based materials to support increased academic achievement, school safety, and improved student growth. The contracts also include personnel to provide appropriate support, services, and testing. In addition, the resources and personnel will also support the continued implementation of Academic Services practices, protocols, policies, and procedures.

**Docusign**

IEP meetings are conducted in person and virtually depending on parent/guardian preference. Docusign is utilized to gain electronic signatures for all meetings as a way for stakeholders to show their participation and input for meetings and to support the district's utilization of a digital platform to house all documentation relating to the IEP. A one-year contract will be initiated not to exceed \$50,000.

**Holy Angels-Community Residential Funds**

Community Residential Funds are provided by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction. These funds assist in providing services to children with disabilities who are placed in an approved residential center. Gaston County Schools partners with Holy Angels to provide services using these funds. A one-year contract will be initiated not to exceed \$500,000.

**Invision**

Invision is utilized for students who require orientation and mobility services through an interactive platform that allows for communication, work, and accessibility of education and curriculum for students with disabilities as well as a means for staff members to interact with one another during meetings, planning sessions, and other opportunities for advancement and learning. A one-year contract will be initiated not to exceed \$30,000.

**Melmark**

Melmark, Inc., is a national leader in educational, clinical, and residential services for children and adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and other intellectual and developmental disabilities. Gaston County Schools will continue to partner with Melmark to meet the academic, behavioral, and social needs of students who require this level of support. One-year contracts will be initiated not to exceed \$400,000.

## **NC Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services**

The Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services helps students aged fourteen to adulthood with disabilities achieve their goals for employment and independence. They provide services in schools that include: participating in IEP meetings to develop transition plans, providing Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) to students with disabilities (with IEPs and 504 plans), completing educational, psychological, and vocational evaluations connecting students to job coaching agencies for job placement, connecting students to agencies for supportive employment, collaborating with Gaston County Schools Department for Exceptional Children to hold community resource and vocational training events, and providing financial support for eligible clients' work-related needs. A one-year contract will be initiated not to exceed \$60,000.

## **N2Y**

News2You is a one-of-a-kind solution designed specifically to help students with special learning needs master their state's extended standards. From a cloud-based platform, The Program allows students with disabilities to access reading, writing, math, social studies, science, and social/emotional skills to access their education based on differentiated learning tasks and extended content standards.

Three-year contract:

Year One: 2025-2026

Year Two: 2026-2027

Year Three: 2027-2028

Total \$300,000.00

## **Public Consulting Group**

Public Consulting Group provides a multi-faceted platform that allows teachers to perform case management and progress monitoring. Staff can utilize the Easy IEP/504 system, MTSS Explorer, Early Warning System, Threat Assessments and special funds management through the platform. Risk Pool Funds and Special State Reserves are monies that are received through special applications for some of our most needy students. A one-year contract will be initiated not to exceed \$550,000.

## **Winthrop**

Because of the increased demand for school psychologists to meet the needs of IEP initial referrals, re-evaluations, and other practices, psychologists have been contracted to work with the Department of Exceptional Children to provide services and support in testing, report writing, and IEP team meetings as needed. A one-year contract will be initiated not to exceed \$50,000.

## **Agency Contracts**

On May 15, 2023, June 12, 2023, September 18, 2023, and March 18, 2024, the Gaston County School Board of Education approved contracting with the outside agencies below to provide various services to support students. Through the Request for Proposal process, we moved forward with awarding contracts to 22 vendors who



submitted proposals. We are in the last year of our 3 Year Request for Proposal. One-year contracts will be initiated not to exceed \$7,000,000.00.

This was presented as information to the curriculum and instruction committee on November 4, 2024.

- Aequor Healthcare Services
- ProCare therapy
- Stellar Therapy Services
- Sunbelt Staffing
- Thrive Skilled Pediatric Care
- CTS Health
- EDU Healthcare
- Maxim Health Staffing
- Stepping Stones
- Support, INC
- AMN
- Angels of Care
- Bayda
- BrightStar
- Continuum
- Gifted Health
- Invo Health
- Maxim Nursing
- MGA
- Positive Behavior Support Corp
- Quantum
- Speech Center

**Fiscal Implications:**

Total: \$8,940,000.00

Federal, state, and local funds will be used to support instructional resources.

**Recommendation:**

Support Academic Services resources for the 2025-2026 school year.

**Policy Implications:**

N/A

**Strategic Goal Alignment:**

Goal 2. Every member of our diverse population has the opportunity for individualized instruction.

**Submitted by:** Chris Mills

**Department:** Exceptional Children  
Executive Director, Exceptional Children

## **Agenda Item**

**Meeting Date:** 6/16/2025

**Agenda Item Title/Topic:** No Nonsense Nurturer Professional Development

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

**Main Points:**

- Presented at the June 2 Curriculum and Instruction Meeting by Grier Middle School, which served as our pilot school.
- No Nonsense Nurturer is a Professional Development opportunity for school staff.
- It provides a framework for classroom management and creating a strong school culture.
- Provides teachers with a four-part model that focuses on student engagement.
- Teachers will receive in-person training as well as follow-up meetings.

**Fiscal Implications:**

Grant provided to the district for the No Nonsense Nurturer training for our Innovation Schools — elementary and middle schools.

**Recommendation:**

Approve a contract for up to \$175,000 that is provided to the district by a grant that will be used in our schools to support our teachers in leading and managing student behavior and high expectations for learning.

**Policy Implications:**

None

**Strategic Goal Alignment:**

Goal 3. Every employee is capable and committed to the education of the whole child.

**Submitted by:** Tonya Kales

**Department:** Academic Services

## **Agenda Item**

**Meeting Date:** 6/16/2025

**Agenda Item Title/Topic:** Holbrook Middle School Boiler Replacement

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

**Main Points:**

The Holbrook Middle School boiler has to be replaced. This project has been approved using Repair & Replacement funds (R & R Funds). Three vendors attended the pre-bid meeting with only Mitcham and Company submitting a bid. Mitcham and Company, Inc. cost estimate is \$171,628.

**Fiscal Implications:**

Funds will be used from the approved R & R Funds.

**Recommendation:**

For the approval of the Holbrook Middle School boiler replacement be awarded to Mitcham and Company, Inc. at a cost of \$171,628.

**Policy Implications:**

N/A

**Strategic Goal Alignment:**

Goal 5. Every student has the opportunity to learn in a safe school environment.

**Submitted by:** Bessie Harvey      **Department:** Assistant Superintendent of Operations

## **Agenda Item**

**Meeting Date:** 6/16/2025

**Agenda Item Title/Topic:** Holbrook Middle School Canopy & Walkway Replacement,  
Tree Removal and Grading

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

**Main Points:**

Walkway needs to be made ADA compliant and canopy needs to be replaced. Tree removal is due to roots under the walkway area. Grading will help drainage. Four vendors were invited with two vendors attending the mandatory pre-bid and only one vendor (Lewis Grading & Paving) submitting a bid of \$382,592.

**Fiscal Implications:**

\$382,592

**Recommendation:**

For the approval of Lewis Grading & Paving to complete the canopy & walkway replacement, tree removal and grading at Holbrook Middle School for \$382,592.

**Policy Implications:**

N/A

**Strategic Goal Alignment:**

Goal 5. Every student has the opportunity to learn in a safe school environment.

**Submitted by:** Bessie Harvey      **Department:** Assistant Superintendent of Operations

## **Agenda Item**

**Meeting Date:** 6/16/2025

**Agenda Item Title/Topic:** Security Vestibule Design for Ashbrook High School, Bessemer City Primary School, East Gaston High School, and Sherwood Elementary School

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

**Main Points:**

This project continues the district's goal to improve the main school entries including a vestibule for improved security, general circulation, and student and visitor experience. The architectural firm of McMillan Pazdan Smith has been selected to design and oversee the construction of these projects.

**Fiscal Implications:**

The cost of designing these four security vestibules is \$245,500. School bond funding will be utilized for these projects.

**Recommendation:**

Approve the contract with McMillan Pazdan Smith for professional, architectural and engineering services for the Ashbrook High School, Bessemer City Primary School, East Gaston High School, and Sherwood Elementary School security vestibule projects.

**Policy Implications:**

None

**Strategic Goal Alignment:**

Goal 5. Every student has the opportunity to learn in a safe school environment.

**Submitted by:** Bessie Harvey      **Department:** Operations  
Assistant Superintendent of Operations

## **Agenda Item**

**Meeting Date:** 6/16/2025

**Agenda Item Title/Topic:** Hunter Huss High School Boiler Replacement

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

### **Main Points:**

The Hunter Huss High School boiler has to be replaced. This project has been approved using Repair & Replacement funds (R & R Funds). Three vendors attended the pre-bid meeting with only Mitcham and Company submitting a bid. Mitcham and Company, Inc. cost estimate is \$119,519.

### **Fiscal Implications:**

Funds will be used from the approved R & R Funds.

### **Recommendation:**

For the approval of the Hunter Huss High School boiler replacement be awarded to Mitcham and Company, Inc. at a cost of \$119,519.

### **Policy Implications:**

N/A

### **Strategic Goal Alignment:**

Goal 5. Every student has the opportunity to learn in a safe school environment.

**Submitted by:** Bessie Harvey      **Department:** Assistant Superintendent of Operations

## **Agenda Item**

**Meeting Date:** 6/16/2025

**Agenda Item Title/Topic:** DRM (Finance) Roof Replacement

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

**Main Points:**

The roof over the Finance Department in the DRM building needs to be replaced. Only one vendor attended the 1<sup>st</sup> pre-bid meeting so a second pre-bid meeting was scheduled. Three vendors attended the second pre-bid meeting.

**Fiscal Implications:**

Three vendors attended the second pre-bid meeting with only Carver & Sons submitting a bid. The bid was for \$198,900.

**Recommendation:**

For the approval of the Finance section of the DRM roof be replaced by Carver & Sons at a cost of \$198,900.

**Policy Implications:**

Every employee has the right to work in a safe environment.

**Strategic Goal Alignment:**

Other: Policy or Gen Statute. See above.

**Submitted by:** Bessie Harvey      **Department:** Assistant Superintendent of Operations

## **Agenda Item**

**Meeting Date:** 6/16/2025

**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

—3:23-CV-643-RJC-DCK Roger Perkins vs. The Gaston County Board of Education

—Any other legal matters.

**Fiscal Implications:**

TBD



**Recommendation:**

Board to consider information provided in Closed Session in accordance with G.S. §143-318.11.

**Policy Implications:**

Policy Code: 2610 Board Attorney

**Strategic Goal Alignment:**

Other: Policy or Gen Statute. See above.

**Submitted by:** Sonya McGraw, Attorney    **Department:** Legal/Superintendent's Office