

**Gaston County Legislative Meeting**  
**Friday, February 28, 2025**  
**Meeting 8:30 a.m.**

**Minutes**

The Gaston County Board of Education met in a Legislative Meeting on Friday, February 28, 2025. Those Board Members in attendance were: Chairman Josh Crisp, Vice Chairman Dot Cherry, Lee Dedmon, A.M. Stephens III, Tod Kinlaw, Brent Moore (absent), Robbie Lovelace (absent), Janna Smith and Jeff Ramsey.

Additional attendees from Gaston County Board of Education included: Superintendent, Morgen A. Houchard, Attorney Sonya McGraw, Associate Superintendents Gary Hoskins and Tonya Kales, Assistant Superintendents Bessie Harvey and Rebekka Powers, Director Tom Nencetti, Chief Communications Officer Todd Hagans and Board Clerk Dana Luoto.

Attendees from the Legislative Delegation included: Senator Ted Alexander, Representative Donnie Loftis, Senator Brad Overcash and Representative John Torbett.

Chairman Crisp welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Chairman Crisp recognized Superintendent Morgen Houchard who presented a PowerPoint on an Overview of Gaston County Schools.

(View PowerPoint Below)


Chairman Crisp opened the floor to the Legislators and Board Members to make introductions, state the committees they are on and other remarks concerning education.

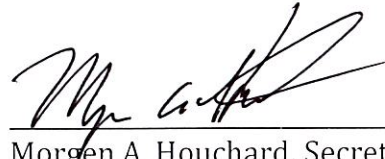
Items discussed included: High Quality Teaching and Learning, College and Career Ready, Safe Schools, Career & Technical Education (CTE), Teacher Retention and Advanced Teaching Roles.

Chairman Crisp thanked everyone for coming and commented that we are fortunate to have good working relationships with our local delegation.

The Gaston County Legislative Delegation Meeting adjourned at 10:33 a.m.

Approved:

  
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Josh Crisp, Chairman  
[Corporate Seal]

  
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Morgen A. Houchard, Secretary

Date Approved: 3/17/2025

# Board of Education Legislative Meeting

*Friday, February 28, 2025*

# District Focus Areas

- High Quality Teaching and Learning
- Positive School and Workplace Culture
- Strong Communication Habits
- Teacher and Student Retention and Recruitment
- Focused Support for School and District Leadership

# Listen and Learn

## Walk and Talk

- ❑ School Board members
- ❑ State and Local leaders
- ❑ Law Enforcement
- ❑ Faith Leaders
- ❑ School Faculty Meetings



# Continue to build our relationships with our stakeholders

State Legislators

County Commissioners

County/City Managers

EDC

Gaston College

Belmont Abbey





# **District Initiatives**

- **Advanced Teacher Roles**
- **Innovative Principal Initiative**
- **UVA - Partnership for Leaders in Education (PLE)**
- **High Quality Professional Development**
- **Teacher Cadet Program**

# □ Career and Technical Education



- ❑ Capital Projects
- ❑ Grier Middle School
- ❑ School Safety
- ❑ School Nutrition

*Farm-to-School Table*





# Gaston County Schools: *Farm-to-School Table*



# Our Responsibility

- ❑ **Continue building relationships and trust with our stakeholders**
- ❑ **Continue efforts to be efficient and effective with the funding we are provided**
- ❑ **Advocate for the importance of educating our children**

*What makes us proud  
in Gaston County Schools*

**Board of Education Legislative Meeting**

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# What makes us proud in Gaston County Schools



## Calvin Coolidge Scholar

Student one of five in the nation to earn the honor



# What makes us proud

*in Gaston County Schools*



**State champions in swimming**

Forestview High School

South Point High School

# What makes us proud in Gaston County Schools



## High school researchers

AP Capstone prepares students for rigor of college



# What makes us proud

*in Gaston County Schools*



## Community impact

'Nickels for Neighbors' collects more than \$35,000

# What makes us proud in Gaston County Schools



## Building for the future

Grand opening ahead for W.P. Grier Middle School

# What makes us proud in Gaston County Schools



## Preparing for the future

Strategic planning and school system accreditation



# What makes us proud in Gaston County Schools



## Focusing for the future

Implementing Advanced Teaching Roles program

# What makes us proud in Gaston County Schools



## Focusing for the future

Implementing salary initiative for principals

# What makes us proud in Gaston County Schools



**Focusing for the future**

Implementing Partnership for Leaders in Education





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