

Gaston County Schools
Curriculum & Instruction Committee Meeting
Monday, January 6, 2025

MINUTES

The Curriculum and Instruction Committee met on Monday, January 6, 2025 at 11:30 a.m. at the Central Office Board Room, 943 Osceola Street, Gastonia, NC. Those members in attendance were: Chairman Jeff Ramsey, Robbie Lovelace, Janna Smith and A.M. Stephens III.

Additional attendees included: BOE Chairman Josh Crisp, Vice Chairman Dot Cherry, Board Member Tod Kinlaw, Superintendent Dr. Morgen A. Houchard, Attorney Sonya McGraw, Associate Superintendent Tonya Kales, Assistant Superintendent Rebekka Powers, Executive Directors Bryan Denton, Kevin Doran, Anarah Henderson, and Tyler West, Chief Communications Officer Todd Hagans, Chief Accountability Officer Kelly Cunningham, Directors Kathleen D'Avria and Shannon Hullett, and Board Clerk Dana Luoto.

Chairman Jeff Ramsey called the meeting to order at 11:39 a.m. and welcomed everyone.

Approval/Correction of Minutes

Motion to adopt minutes of November 4, 2024 as presented was made by Mrs. Robbie Lovelace; seconded by Mr. A.M. Stephens III; motion carried unanimously.
(4-0)

Community Builder

Chief Accountability Officer Kelly Cunningham led the group in a community building activity. The group reflected on experiences or lessons learned from last year and set an intention for the current year.

Academic Services Organizational Chart

Associate Superintendent Tonya Kales reviewed the Academic Services organizational chart.

Teacher Pathway Grant Update

Ms. Kales announced that Gaston County Schools has received the Teacher Pathway Grant that was submitted in August 2024. This will be a three-year grant and we will receive approximately \$1M over the three years.

Choice Programs

Assistant Superintendent Rebekka Powers reviewed the application window for the Choice Programs. The Choice Lottery window opens on Wednesday, January 15, 2025 through Friday, March 21, 2025. Kindergarten enrollment opens on Monday, March 3, 2025. Superintendent Houchard reviewed current specialized programs that are proposed for closure, while potential new programs are being recommended for implementation across various schools.

AIS Digital Imaging Contract

Dr. Rebekka Powers reviewed the AIS Digital Imaging Contract. The contract is for digital scanning and storage of EC Records and Student Cumulative Files. This contract is not to exceed \$425,000.

Policy Code: 4200 School Safety Policy Update

Dr. Rebekka Powers provided an update on revisions to Policy Code 4200 School Safety. The draft version of this policy will be posted on our website for review.

Academic Services Deep Dive Focus

Executive Directors Bryan Denton, Kevin Doran, Anarah Henderson, Tyler West and Directors Kathleen D'Avria and Shannon Hullett presented a PowerPoint on First Semester Instructional Agenda.

(View PowerPoint Below)

Early Colleges Calendar 2025-2026

Dr. Bryan Denton and Mr. Kevin Doran reviewed the draft 2025-2026 Early Colleges Calendar. The first day of school is August 11, 2025 and graduation will be held on May 19, 2026.

Motion

The Motion was made by Mr. A.M. Stephens III; seconded by Mrs. Robbie Lovelace that the Board

Approve the Early Colleges Calendar for 2025-2026

A vote was taken and motion to approve the item as presented carried unanimously. (4-0)

(View Draft Calendar Below)

Other Business and Discussions

Superintendent Houchard reported on a potential property purchase in Gaston County.

Superintendent Houchard announced that Dr. Chad Hovis will be the interim principal at Pleasant Ridge for the remainder of the year due to Principal Bridgett Best resigning.

Next Committee Meeting Date/Time

The next C&I Committee Meeting is scheduled for February 3, 2025 at the Central Office Board Room beginning at 11:30 a.m.

Adjournment

All business being conducted, Motion to adjourn was made by Mrs. Robbie Lovelace; seconded by Mr. A.M. Stephens III motion carried unanimously. (4-0)

Approved:

Jeff Ramsey, Chairman

Date Approved: _____

Academic Services Deep Dive: **Instructional Leadership**

Academic Services Purpose Statement

Leading with head and heart, the Academic Services Team will provide strategic systems of support focused on the GCS instructional framework, data-driven instruction, and intentional leadership development, resulting in high-quality teaching and learning for all.

K-12 Data Pathways

Elementary

- Kindergarten Readiness (NCELI)
- K-2 Reading at or above grade level (mCLASS composite score)
- 3rd at or above grade level (725 lexile, BOG, Check-Ins, EOG)
- 3-5 Math at or above grade level (iReady, Check-Ins, SchoolNet, EOG)
- 5th Science at or above grade level (Check Ins, SchoolNet, EOG)

Middle

- 7th Grade Reading & Math at or above grade level (Check-Ins and EOG)
- 8th Grade Science at or above grade level (check ins, EOG)

High

- Successful completion of Math I and English 9 by the end of Grade 9
- A score of 19 or higher on the ACT OR a Silver or higher on WorkKeys
- Graduation rate of 95% or higher

School Site Visits

- Executive Directors conduct site visits at least once per month at each school.
- These scheduled visits have a specific instructional focus.
- Targeted coaching questions, classroom walkthroughs, and data analysis are important parts of each visit.
- **Over 300 site visits** were conducted first semester.



Gaston County Schools - Principal Support Tool - Elementary

October

[Google Form Link](#)

<p>Academic Services Purpose Statement: Leading with head and heart, the Academic Services Team will provide strategic systems of support focused on the GCS instructional framework, data-driven instruction, and intentional leadership development, resulting in high-quality teaching and learning for all.</p> <p>K-12 Pathways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Kindergarten Readiness - K-3 Reading At or above grade level (Literacy Plan) - 3-5 Math At or above grade level - 5th Science At or above grade level - 7th Grade Reading & Math At or above grade level - 8th Grade Science At or above grade level - Completion of Math I & English 9 by the end of Grade 9 - 19+ on the ACT OR a Silver on WorkKeys - Graduation rate of 95% or higher 	<p>School Executive Standards</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategic Leadership Instructional Leadership Cultural Leadership Human Resource Leadership Managerial Leadership External Development Leadership Micropolitical Leadership <p>Leadership Competencies</p>
<p>Site Visit Instructional Focus: <i>Data Analysis and Intervention</i> Standards 1 and 2</p>	<p>Data/Monitoring</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Admin Data Dashboard HR Dashboard Walkthrough Dashboard MTSS Protocol Check-in data and 2023 Comparison mClass Progress monitoring
<p>Targeted Coaching Questions Based on Instructional Focus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What does your Reading check-in data tell you about classroom instruction? How is your assigned AF engaging with PLCs around this data? What are your next 2-3 steps to respond? Let's review your Admin Data Dashboard. What does your projected proficiency data tell you? How are your teachers using this data? What does your mClass progress monitoring data tell you about student progress and teacher fidelity? <p>Additional Questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What does your walkthrough data tell you about rigorous instruction in your classrooms? What are your next 2-3 steps to respond? Who do you need to engage and how will you "recheck" for progress? What does your discipline data tell you about lost instructional time? What are your next 2-3 steps to respond to that data? Who do you need to engage and how will you "recheck" for progress? What support do you need from the Academic Services team? 	
<p>Logistical Reminders for the Month</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Round 1 observations by November 8th Vector/Safe Schools Modules due this month MTSS Meetings SIP Feedback 	

Instructional Meetings

- Monthly instructional principal meetings take place in schools.
- Focused on math observations and instructional improvements

Standards Jigsaw: 4.OA.3 4.NBT.4 4.NBT.5 4.NBT.6

Step 1 - Form Expert Groups

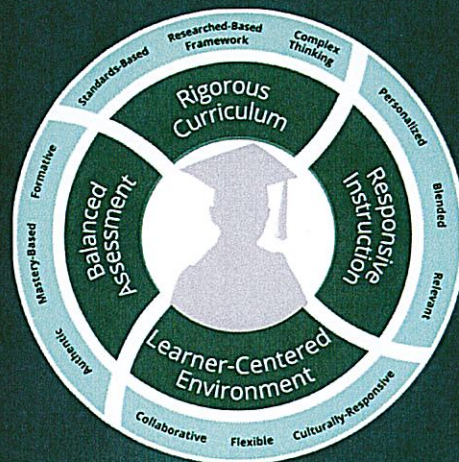
- Review Assessment Tasks
- Unpack Standard with a focus on mathematical language

Identify What Students Need to Know Learning Intentions	Identify How Students Show Mastery Evidence of Student Learning
Nouns:	Verbs:
* Background Knowledge/Skills:	✓ Procedure Skills & Fluency:
Vocabulary	Application/Problem Solving:



Curriculum and Instruction Framework

- ❖ Instructional Expectations
 - Elementary
 - Secondary
- ❖ NC Standard Course of Study
- ❖ GCS Assessment Calendars
 - Elementary
 - Middle
 - High



Gaston Early College High School

2025-2026 **DRAFT** School Calendar

July 2025						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

August 2025						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						15

September 2025						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				
						20

20 employee days

22 employee days

October 2025						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	
					20.5	

November 2025						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						16

December 2025						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			
						15

23 employee days

20 employee days

23 employee days

January 2026						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
						18

February 2026						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
						19

March 2026						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				19.5

22 employee days

20 employee days

22 employee days

April 2026						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		18

May 2026						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
						13

June 2026						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

22 employee days

21 employee days



School Closed / Holiday



Mandated Teacher Workday



Annual Leave



First and Last Day of School



Optional Teacher Workday