

**Gaston County Schools
Operations Committee
Monday, June 2, 2025**

MINUTES

The Operations Committee met on Monday, June 2, 2025 at 8:30 a.m. in the Central Office Board Room, 943 Osceola Street, Gastonia, NC. The Committee Members in attendance were: Chairman Brent Moore, Dot Cherry, Lee Dedmon, and Tod Kinlaw

Additional attendees included: BOE Chairman Josh Crisp, Superintendent Dr. Morgen A. Houchard, Attorney Sonya McGraw, Associate Superintendents Gary Hoskins and Tonya Kales, Executive Director Beth Suber, Assistant Superintendent Bessie Harvey Chief Communications Officer Todd Hagans, Chief Technology Officer Curtis Poplin, Chief of Staff Tom Nencetti, and Board Clerk Dana Luoto.

Chairman Moore called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m. and welcomed everyone.

Approval of Minutes

Motion to adopt minutes of May 5, 2025 as presented was made by Ms. Dot Cherry; seconded by Mr. Lee Dedmon; motion carried unanimously. (4-0)

Finance Update

Associate Superintendent Gary Hoskins presented an update on the 2025-26 Budget.
(View Presentation)

Technology Support Services Updates

Chief Technology Officer Curtis Poplin presented an update on the Windows 11 project, the WAN conversion and the Infinite Campus conversion.
(View Presentation)

Human Resources Updates

Executive Director Beth Suber, presented an update on the transition to the ESS Substitute Management System and BChex.
(View Presentation)

Emergency Radio Project Update

Assistant Superintendent Bessie Harvey reported that we have partnered with the County to bid this project. We anticipate awarding a vendor on August 18, 2025.

Grier Middle School Update

Bessie Harvey reported that a final inspection is scheduled for today at 10:30 a.m. Furniture is being delivered to the existing Grier Middle School until a stocking permit has been approved. Principals have been invited to walk the campus on May 29 and 30 to identify any furniture they can use. An auction is scheduled for Wednesday, June 11. We are looking at a mid-July occupancy date.

Bond Project Update

- Bessie Harvey reported that LED upfits are in process and are scheduled to be completed by Monday, June 30.
- We anticipate an August completion date for the freezer cooler projects.
- We have received the final approval of the Architect's Proposal for the vestibule project design.
- The roof inspection is completed for Mount Holly Middle auditorium and the scope of development is in process.
- Responses for the RFQ have been received for the Architect's design of the Belmont Central classroom addition.
- We have received the final documentation for the Stuart Cramer wall.

Hunter Huss High School Boiler Replacement

Bessie Harvey reported that the boiler at Hunter Huss needs to be replaced. Funds for this project will be used from the approved Repair & Replacement Funds. Three vendors attended the pre-bid meeting with only Mitcham and Company submitting a bid.

Motion

The Motion was made by Ms. Dot Cherry; seconded by Mr. Lee Dedmon that the Board
Recommend Approval of the Hunter Huss High School Boiler Replacement by Mitcham and Company at a cost of \$119,519. Item to be placed on the Consent Agenda for the June 16, 2025 Board Meeting.

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

Holbrook Middle School Boiler Replacement

Bessie Harvey reported that the boiler at Holbrook Middle School needs to be replaced. Funds for this project will be used from the approved Repair & Replacement Funds. Three vendors attended the pre-bid meeting with only Mitcham and Company submitting a bid.

Motion

The Motion was made by Ms. Dot Cherry; seconded by Mr. Lee Dedmon that the Board
Recommend Approval of the Holbrook Middle School Boiler Replacement by Mitcham and Company at a cost of \$171,628. Item to be placed on the Consent Agenda for the June 16, 2025 Board Meeting.

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

DRM (Finance) Roof Replacement

Bessie Harvey reported that the roof over the Finance Department in the DRM building needs to be replaced. Only one vendor attended the first pre-bid meeting so a second pre-bid meeting was scheduled and three vendors attended.

Motion

The Motion was made by Ms. Dot Cherry; seconded by Mr. Lee Dedmon that the Board
Recommend Approval of the DRM (Finance) Roof Replacement by Carver & Sons at a cost of \$198,900. Item to be placed on the Consent Agenda for the June 16, 2025 Board Meeting.

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

Meeting Schedule

The next Operations Committee Meeting is scheduled for August 4, 2025 in the Central Office Board Room beginning at 8:30 a.m. (There will not be a July committee meeting).

Other Business and Discussion

Superintendent Houchard reviewed the process of Design-Bid-Build construction method where the design phase is completed separately from the construction phase. We also talked about potentially using the construction at risk construction method which incorporates the general contractor into the design phase.

Superintendent Houchard reviewed a handout which included additional information concerning the Armstrong Property. The County Commissioner Chairman has asked for this information for their review. This item could potentially be added to their next agenda for additional discussion and possible approval for the Board of Education to purchase Armstrong Property.

Adjournment

All business being conducted, a motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Dot Cherry; seconded by Mr. Lee Dedmon. Motion carried unanimously. (4-0)

The Operations Committee Meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

Approved:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Brent Moore", is written over a horizontal line.

Brent Moore, Chairman

Date Approved: 8-4-25