

Gaston County Schools
Board of Education
Monday, July 21, 2025
Meeting 8:00 a.m.
Special Meeting

MINUTES

The Gaston County Board of Education met in a special session on Monday, July 21st at 8:00 a.m. in the Board Room, 943 Osceola Street, Gastonia, NC. for the purpose of the Armstrong Property Donation, Lawn Care Services Contracts, the Retaining Wall at Stuart W. Cramer High School and Personnel Those Board Members in attendance were: Chairman Josh Crisp, Vice Chairman Dot Cherry, Lee Dedmon, Tod Kinlaw, Brent Moore, Jeff Ramsey, Janna Smith and A.M. Stephens III. Robbie Lovelace was absent.

Additional attendees include: Superintendent Morgen Houchard, Attorney Sonya McGraw, Associate Superintendent for Academic Services Tonya Kales, Associate Superintendent Gary Hoskins, Bessie Harvey, Assistant Superintendent for Operations, Rebekka Powers Assistant Superintendent for Student Support Services, Chief Communications Officer Todd Hagans, Chief Technology Officer Curtis Poplin, and Board Clerk Cindy Beck.

Chairman Crisp called the meeting to order at 8:01 a.m. and welcomed everyone.

Armstrong Property Donation Action

The Board reviewed the donation of the Armstrong Property at 3372 Robinwood Rd, Gastonia, NC 28054.

Superintendent Morgen Houchard presented the information that the Armstrong Property has been donated to Gaston County Schools. The donor requested that the name of the Property remain as Armstrong and that Gaston County Schools pay the \$10,000 closing costs. Superintendent Morgen Houchard recommends the approval of accepting the property. The property, once renovated, will serve as the Teacher Resource Center.

Superintendent Morgen Houchard suggested selling the current Teacher Resource Center property due to the building's age, as well as the presence of asbestos and lead paint.

After discussion, a motion to approve the item as presented was made by Mr. Brent More and seconded by Mr. Jeff Ramsey. Motion carried unanimously. (8-0)

Lawn Care Services Action

The Board considered the proposed Lawn Care Services Contracts for the re-bid process for the 2025-2026 School year.

Ms. Bessie Harvey presented Lawn Care Vendor information for the re-bid for Zones 1-7, including Administrative sites. The revised scope of services would save \$76,000.

A vote was taken and a motion to approve the items as presented was made by Mr. A.M. Stephens and seconded by Ms. Dot Cherry.. Motion carried unanimously (8-0)

Information attached

Retaining Wall, Stuart W. Cramer High School Action

Retaining Wall, Stuart W. Cramer High School

Ms. Bessie Harvey addressed the Board on the need to repair retaining walls 3 & 4 of the baseball and softball field of Stuart Cramer High School. The needed repairs originate from the original design and redesign efforts. Ms. Bessie Harvey expressed concern that the retaining wall will eventually worsen if not repaired. Information was presented that 9 vendors submitted pre-bids for the project.

The Board considered the recommendation for the approval of O.L. Parker and Son Grading to be awarded the contract for the needed repairs.

A vote was taken and a motion to approve the items as presented was made by Ms. Dot Cherry and seconded by Mr. A.M. Stephens. Motion carried unanimously (8-0)

Information attached

Chairman Crisp asked the Board to consider going into Closed Session under N.C.G.S. §143-318.11(a)(6) Personnel.

The Board went into Closed Session at 8:18 a.m.

The Board returned to Open Session at 8:37 a.m.

In Closed Session, the following Personnel recommendations were presented by Mrs. Beth Suber.

Motion

The Motion was made by Ms. Dot Cherry and seconded by Mr. A.M. Stephens III to accept the recommendations for 2-year Principal Contracts for:

Natalie LaRusch was recommended as Principal at Ida Ranking with a two-year contract. A vote was taken, and a motion to approve the item as presented carried unanimously/ (8-0).

Meghan LeFevers was recommended as Principal at Warlick Academy with a two-year contract. After discussion, a vote was taken, and a motion to approve the item as presented carried. (7-1)
Ms. Smith voted against.

Motion

The motion was made by Ms. Dot Cherry and seconded by Mr. Lee Dedmon that the Board award 2-year Assistant Principal Contracts for the following:

Rachel Brown was recommended for the position of Assistant Principal of South Point High School.

James Crisp was recommended as Assistant Principal of Bessemer City High School.

A vote was taken, and a motion to approve the items as presented. Motion carried unanimously. (8-0)

Motion

The Motion was made by Mr. Brent Moore and seconded by Ms. Dot Cherry, that the Board award a four-year Principal Contract for the following:

Todd Goff was recommended for a renewal of his 4-year contract. Mr. Goff is the Principal at Bessemer City Primary.

A vote was taken, and a motion to approve the item as presented. Motion carried unanimously. (8-0)

Motion

Adjournment

All business having been conducted, Motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Lee Dedmon; seconded by Mr. Brent Moore. The motion carried unanimously. (8-0)

The Board Meeting adjourned at 8:42 a.m.

Approved:



Josh Crisp, Chairman
[Corporate Seal]



Morgen A. Houchard, Secretary

Date Approved: 8-18-25