

**Gaston County Schools
Operations Committee
Monday, October 6, 2025**

MINUTES

The Operations Committee met on Monday, October 6, 2025, at 8:30 a.m. in the Central Office Board Room, 943 Osceola Street, Gastonia, NC. The Committee Members in attendance were: Chairman Moore, Dot Cherry and Tod Kinlaw, Lee Dedmon.

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, Kyle Wood, Laura Long, and Board Clerk Cindy Beck.

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

Approval/Correction of the Minutes

Motion to adopt the Minutes from the August 4, 2025, and September 8, 2025, as presented was made by Ms. Dot Cherry and seconded by Mr. Tod Kinlaw; motion carried unanimously (4-0).

State Budget Update

Associate Superintendent Gary Hoskins presented an update on the State Budget. The State Comprehensive Budget has not been finalized. The General Assembly reconvenes on October 21st and one week each month thereafter.

Mr. Hoskins advised that he anticipates bringing a proposed budget resolution to the next Operations Committee meeting for discussion and, subsequently, to the Board for approval. This will allow continued Operations to run smoothly while remaining flexible to make further adjustments once a state budget is adopted.

(View Presentation)

TSS Updates

Chief Technology Officer introduced Director of Digital Learning and Media Services Kyle Wood and Media Coordinator Laura Long gave the following updates:

Infinite Campus

Mr. Wood presented information on Infinite Campus

- 9/3 Campus Student Portal launched

- 9/16 Additional Training to Data Managers was provided

- 10/16 Campus Parent Launches with an automated email for parents with Infinite Campus information. Including a tutorial.

- There will be a Campus Parent Academy on the GCS Website for additional support.

School Library Update

Mrs. Laura Long presented information to the Committee about NC House Bill 805 Section 3.3 (a).

Mrs. Long advised that the House Bill requires public access to school library catalogs and classroom library book collections, which would allow parents and guardians to identify titles they do not wish for their child to borrow.

Staff have worked with the Communications Department to add a link to each school's library catalog under the "**Find It Fast**" section on every school website. All school libraries are in full compliance with the legislation.

Human Resources Update

The Executive Director of Human Resources presented the October Human Resources Report:

- ESS Update-Substitute Fill Rate: 82%
- Vacancy Update District Wide: 37
- Opportunities for Human Resources Support

(View Report)

Operations Updates

Assistant Superintendent Bessie Harvey asked the Committee members to consider the upgrade to Turf Field Installations for athletic fields for budget planning purposes.

Ms. Harvey presented that Turf Fields offer year-round playability, increased durability, and reduced maintenance requirements.

Chairman Crisp requested that Ms. Harvey provide a detailed cost comparison of Turf Field installations and maintenance versus Natural Grass Field and maintenance for the Board's consideration. Ms. Harvey will present the cost information at a future meeting.

(View Presentation)

Contract Discussion

The following contracts were reviewed and recommended to be placed on the Consent Agenda:

- Life Safety - Woodhill ES
- Lightspeed Systems Renewal
- Cisco SMARTNet Renewal
- School Staff Chromebook Purchase

Motion

The Motion was made by Ms. Dot Cherry and seconded by Mr. Tod Kinlaw that the Board:

Approve Contracts to be placed on the Consent Agenda for the October 20, 2025, Board Meeting.

A vote was taken, and a motion to approve the contracts as presented carried

unanimously. (4-0)

(View Presentation)

Legal Updates

Attorney Sonya McGraw advised that the newly formed Policy Committee of the Board is prepared to convene to review and discuss the latest policy revisions to bring before the Board. The date for the initial meeting will be set and announced at a later time.

(View Presentation)

Superintendent's Comments

Superintendent Houchard emphasized the formative assessment initiatives led by the Academic Services Department. He explained that formative assessment evaluates what students understand and helps teachers identify and address learning gaps.

Other Business and Discussion

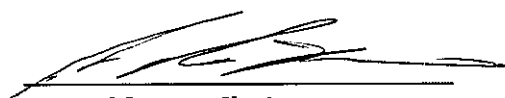
The next Operations Committee Meeting is scheduled for November 3, 2025, in the Central Office Board Room beginning at 8:30 a.m.

Adjournment

All business being conducted, the meeting was adjourned. Motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Tod Kinlaw and seconded by Mr. Lee Dedmon. The Motion carried unanimously. (4-0)

The Operations Committee Meeting adjourned at 9:50 a.m.

Approved:


Brent Moore, Chairman

Date Approved: 11-3-25