

Gaston County Schools
Curriculum & Instruction Committee Meeting
Monday, November 3, 2025

MINUTES

The Curriculum and Instruction Committee met on Monday, November 3, 2025, at 11:30 a.m. in 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, who joined by conference call.

Additional attendees included: BOE Chairman Josh Crisp, Vice Chairman Dot Cherry, Superintendent Dr. Morgen A. Houchard, Attorney Sonya McGraw, Associate Superintendent Tonya Kales, Assistant Superintendents Rebekka Powers and Bessie Harvey, Executive Directors Bryan Denton, Kevin Doran, Anarah Henderson, and Tyler West, Chief Technology Officer Kelly Cunningham, Chief of Staff Tom Nencetti, and Board Clerk Cindy Beck.

Approval/Correction of Minutes

Motion to adopt minutes of October 6, 2025, as presented was made by Mrs. Janna Smith, seconded by Mrs. Robbie Lovelace, motion carried unanimously. (4-0)

Health Plan Update

Mr. Hoskins presented the following updates in the State Health Plan:

- 2026 Open Enrollment: October 13 - October 31.
- Health Insurance Provider: Aetna remains the provider.
- Effective Date: January 2026.
- Deductions Begin: December 2025.
- Premiums: Now based on employee salary, including teacher supplements.
- Updates: Revised salary file sent in October due to inclusion of supplements, leading to increased premiums for some employees.

Human Resources Update

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

- ESS Update–Substitute Fill Rate: 88%
- Teacher Vacancy Update District Wide: 43
- Upcoming Recruiting Event–11/5 Employ a Veteran Job Fair, Shelby, NC
- Classroom Central and the Carolina Panthers donated over 7,000 backpacks with school supplies for Gaston County Schools' students.

Teaching and Learning in Action

Ms. Kales and the Academic Services' Data Integration Specialists presented the Deep Dive on Teaching and Learning in Action as aligned to the Strategic Plan Goals:

A1 Increase Grade Level Proficiency (GLP) from 48.4 to 60%

A2 Increase the percentage of schools meeting or exceeding growth from 71% to 75%

To help achieve the plan's goals, data-driven instruction planning days are built into the teachers' calendars. The team shared the typical professional development day:

- Morning sessions focused on data analysis of interim assessments.
- Afternoon sessions focused on reteach planning using modeling and guided discourse strategies.

The team expanded on the District-Wide Data Analysis Protocol, explaining that using data from SchoolNet reports, including Test Summary, Standard Overview, and Question Analysis, is beneficial. Additionally, looking for patterns for comparison after student testing helps identify reteach opportunities.

Student Support Services Updates

Dr. Powers presented the Student Support Services Strategic Plan Goals to raise the daily attendance rate to 95% or higher and to achieve full implementation of tiered social-emotional and mental health support systems (MTSS).

Shenice Bailey shared information on the SISP Report (Specialist Instructional Support Personnel). All public schools in the state are required to quantitatively report the support if a Social Worker, Counselor, or School Nurse intervenes on behalf of a student's mental health-related related.

Information on the annual Mental Health Plan was distributed, and it was requested to be placed on the Consent Agenda.

Motion

The Motion was made by Mrs. Robbie Lovelace and seconded by Mrs. Janna Smith that the Board:

Approve the Mental Health Plan to be placed on the Consent Agenda for the November 17, 2025, Board Meeting.

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

Attendance and Graduation Audits

Dr. Powers shared that a district-wide attendance video competition is underway to promote attendance. Schools will submit videos for an internal review, and the top elementary, middle, and high school submissions will be featured on social media for public voting.

Graduation audits are currently taking place at High Schools with Counselors.

Parent and community engagement efforts are underway for the school year through advisory councils, mentoring programs, and faith-based coalitions, providing multiple opportunities for involvement.

Susie Bradley shared that a new online registration (OLR) platform is being developed for Student Assignment to help with student enrollment.

Chad Duncan gave updates on the Student-Athlete Advisory Council and fall sports seasons.

(View Presentation)

Legal/Policy Updates

Ms. Dot Cherry gave the following update on the Policy Committee and reported that it held a productive meeting, during which eleven of the thirteen proposed policy revisions were approved. The Committee is scheduled to convene again on Tuesday, November 25, 2025.

(View Presentation)

No Nonsense Nurturing Updates

Additional behavior and instructional support is requested for several schools—WC Friday, Bessemer City Middle, York Chester, Woodhill, HH Beam, Bessemer City Central, and Holbrook Middle—impacting 3,555 students. The recommendation is to approve added services and contract extensions not exceeding \$150,000, funded by federal and state funds targeted for

Motion

The Motion was made by Mrs. Robbie Lovelace and seconded by Mrs. Janna Smith that the Board:

Approve the No Nonsense Nurturing 1.5-2.0 to be placed on the Consent Agenda for the November 17, 2025, Board Meeting.

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

Leadership Development Program

Ms. Kales shared the timeline of the *Lights, Camera, Lead* program for Gaston County Schools for potential principals.

November-December: Application and selection process.

January-February: Leadership sessions and portfolio development.

March: Principal pool process.

April-Summer: Principal selection from the pool.

Career and Technical Education (CTE) Update – Gaston County Schools

- **Honoring Military Families:**

In recognition of Military Family Appreciation Month, schools honor military families through displays, slideshows, and ROTC involvement. ROTC instructors connect students to military pathways and community service.

- **Career Development in Action (Cherryville High):**

Cherryville High held a Career Rotation Day for ninth-graders, introducing them to various CTE pathways like Health Science, Culinary Arts, Skilled Trades, and Public Safety. Activities included hands-on projects and virtual reality simulations. Sophomores completed the ACT and upperclassmen took the ASVAB to assess career readiness.

- **Middle School Career Exploration Expansion:**

Middle schools are expanding career exploration with Interactive learning modules that provide career exploration that help guide high school pathway choices and future planning.

(view presentation)

Next Meeting

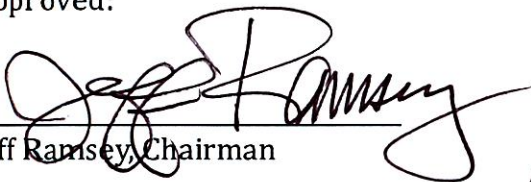
Date: December 1, 2025 Time: 11:30 AM Location: Boardroom

Adjournment

All business being conducted, the meeting was adjourned. Motion to adjourn was made by Mrs. Janna Smith and seconded by Mrs. Robbie Lovelace. The Motion carried unanimously. (4-0)

The Curriculum and Instruction Committee Meeting adjourned at 1:55 p.m.

Approved:



Jeff Ramsey, Chairman

Date Approved: _____

12/1/25