GASTON COUNTY
BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Session

943 Osceola Street, Gastonia, NC 28054

February 16th, 2026

5:30 p.m.

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 2/16/2026

Agenda Item Title/Topic: Agenda Adoption

Type of Item: ☐ **Consent** ☒ **Action** ☐ **Information**

Main Points:
Consideration of the Formal Agenda for Monday, February 16, 2026

Roberts Rules of Order (Revised), adoption of the Agenda for meeting sequence and structure.

Fiscal Implications:
None

Recommendation:
Adoption of Agenda

Policy Implications:
Policy Code: 2350 Board Meeting Agenda.

Strategic Goal Alignment:
Goal 1. Every student will graduate prepared for post-secondary opportunities.

Submitted by: Dr. Morgen A. Houchard **Department:** Superintendent

GASTON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Josh Crisp, Chairman, Dallas Township
Lee Dedmon, Gastonia Township
Robbie Lovelace, Cherryville Township
Jeff K. Ramsey, At Large
A.M. Stephens, III, Riverbend Township

Dot Cherry, Vice Chairman At Large
Tod Kinlaw, South Point Township
Brent Moore, Crowders Mountain Township
Janna Smith, Gastonia Township

Dr. Morgen A. Houchard, Superintendent

943 Osceola Street, Gastonia, NC 28054
Monday, February 16, 2026
5:30 p.m.
Agenda
Regular Meeting

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Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 2/16/2026

Agenda Item Title/Topic: Good News

Type of Item: ☐ **Consent** ☐ **Action** ☒ **Information**

Main Points:

Each month, the Communications/Public Information Department compiles "Good News" about our schools, students, employees, and community partners. See attachment.

Fiscal Implications:

None

Recommendation:

None

Policy Implications:

None

Strategic Goal Alignment:

Goal 1. Every student will graduate prepared for post-secondary opportunities.

Submitted by: Todd Hagans
Chief Communications Officer

Department: Communications
(Superintendent's Office)

BOARD AGENDA INFORMATIONAL ITEM

DEPARTMENT: Communications/Public Information Department

TOPIC: GOOD NEWS

FOR THE MONTH OF: February 2026

1. The semifinalists for the Gaston County Schools 2026-2027 Teacher of the Year are **Erica Baird**, Forestview High School; **Jennifer Gallagher, Highland School of Technology**; **Noah Hartley, Hunter Huss High School**; **Allison Lockridge, Rankin Elementary**; **Jenna Markwith, Hawks Nest STEAM Academy**; **Laura Robinson, North Gaston High School**; **Clarissa Sanders, Pleasant Ridge Elementary**; **Shannon Stephens, McAdenville Elementary**; **Rovahnda Tate, Cramerton Middle School**; and **Harmoni Tomlin, Carr Elementary**.

2. The following teachers received National Board Certification: **Caletra Miller, Pleasant Ridge Elementary**; **Erica Powell, New Hope Elementary**; **Carly Edge, Gardner Park Elementary**; **Elizabeth Conyers, Lowell Elementary**; and **Loc Truong, Pinewood Elementary**. In addition, the following educators renewed National Board Certification: **Kristin Hedrick, Cramerton Middle School**; **Brittany Henderson, Chavis Middle School**; **Kerri Luksa, Cramerton Middle School**; **Marsha Michael, Stuart W. Cramer High School**; **Angela Molla, Bessemer City Central Elementary**; **Matthew Renegar, Highland School of Technology**; **Rexana Rhoney, Bessemer City Primary**; and **Linda Wieland, Brookside Elementary**.

3. The following students received awards at the UNC-Charlotte Region VI Science and Engineering Fair: **Jillian Schultheis** of **East Gaston High School** was selected as a finalist for the Regeneron International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) in Phoenix, Arizona. In addition, **Olive Arnold** of **Stanley Middle School** was awarded the Naval Award for students who have outstanding projects in STEM, and **Brooklyn Stewart** of **East Gaston High School** received an award from the Association of Women Geoscientists for projects that exemplify high standards of innovativeness and scientific excellence in geosciences. Also, **Henry Markwith** of **Cramerton Middle School** received the Thermo Fisher Scientific Junior Innovators Challenge Nomination. Students who received awards and are advancing to the North Carolina Science and Engineering Fair are **Margo Barnett, Hawks Nest STEAM Academy**, first place, Engineering and Technology; **Henry Markwith, Cramerton Middle School**, first place, Junior Math/Statistics/Data; **Anam Fatima** and **Esmerald Miller, Pleasant Ridge Elementary**, second place, Biological Sciences; **Marissa Lynn, Hawks Nest STEAM Academy**, second place, Physics and Mathematics; **Selah Smith, Belmont Middle School**, second place, Biological Sciences B; **Camdyn Mathis, Holbrook Middle School**, second place; Chemistry; **Brooklyn Stewart, East Gaston High School**, second place, Earth and Environmental Sciences; **Nathan Hansel, W.A. Bess Elementary**, third place, Chemistry; **Eleanor** and **Sammuel Moody-Musick, Hawks Nest STEAM Academy**, third place, Engineering and Technology; **Virginia Villarreal, Gardner Park**

Elementary, fourth place, Earth and Environmental Science; **Marlowe Morris, Stanley Middle School**, fourth place, Biological Sciences A; **Ezekiel Pasco, W.C. Friday Middle School**, fourth place, Biological Sciences B; **Levi Kirkpatrick, Stanley Middle School**, fourth place, Engineering; **Peyton Safrit, East Gaston High School**, fourth place, Biological Sciences B; and **Saiim Brown, Aidan Oplinger**, and **Rhys Todd, Gaston Early College**, Physics, fourth place.

4. The following students received honorable mention awards at the UNC-Charlotte Region VI Science and Engineering Fair: **Corianna Woods, Costner Elementary**; Earth and Environmental Sciences; **Delilah Romero, Stanley Middle School**; Biological Sciences A; **Olive Arnold, Stanley Middle School**; Engineering; **Amy Page, Stanley Middle School**; Engineering; **Owen Berrier** and **Austin Smith**, and **Holbrook Middle School**, Physics.

5. **Gaston County Schools** art teachers participated in an exhibit at the Jeanne Rauch Gallery at Gaston College: **Brenda Bradley, Cramerton Middle School**; **Carrie Crowl, Highland School of Technology**; **Lacey Beam Dellinger, Cherryville High School**; **Noah Hartley, Hunter Huss High School**; **Olivia Hedrick, Ashbrook High School**; **Erin Hirst, North Gaston High School**; **Tim Stiles, Stuart W. Cramer High School**; and **Taylor Stump, Hunter Huss High School**. The exhibit titled "Extra Credit" featured artwork created by middle and high school teachers.

6. **Kent P. Kido** of **Highland School of Technology** and **Rori Grace McCorkle** of **Forestview High School** have been named **Gaston County Schools'** nominees for the U.S. Presidential Scholars in Career and Technical Education (CTE) program. The prestigious national recognition honors graduating seniors who demonstrate outstanding achievement, leadership, and excellence in Career and Technical Education.

7. **Paul Sayegh** of **Belmont Middle School** won the Gaston County Schools Spelling Bee, which was held on February 11 at **Ashbrook High School**. He will compete in March at the Carolina Panthers Regional Spelling Bee. The top four finishers in the regional bee receive invitations to advance to the Scripps National Spelling Bee. **Lawrence Martin** of **Cramerton Middle School** was the runner-up.

8. The following students are recipients of scholarships presented by the Gaston Music Education Foundation: **Zachary Hatfield, Stuart W. Cramer High School**, Edith Kersh College Scholarship; **Ella Queen, Forestview High School**, Marie Torrence Lattimore College Scholarship; **K'Hari Craig, Ashbrook High School**, Martha Kendrick Cannon Music Camp Scholarship at Appalachian State University; **Jeremiah Griggs, Gaston Early College High School**, Dina Jo Hanna Camp Scholarship at UNC-Greensboro; **Hannah Lineberger, South Point High School**, Margaret Alexander McArver Camp Scholarship at UNC-Greensboro; **Mykila Manning, North Gaston High School**, Gaston Music Education Foundation Camp Scholarship at UNC-Greensboro; and **Adoma Eshum, Highland School of Technology**, Gaston Music Education Foundation Camp Scholarship at UNC-Greensboro.

9. Mayor Nelson Wills signed a proclamation to designate February 5, 2026 as "Jeff Ramsey Day" in Cramerton. The honor recognizes Board of Education at-large member **Jeff K. Ramsey** for his service to Cramerton and Gaston County for more than 30 years.

His leadership roles include Cramerton commissioner, Cramerton mayor pro tem, and member, chairman, and vice chairman of the Gaston County Board of Education. He has also supported local history preservation, youth recreation, and community programs.

10. **Todd Hagans**, chief communications officer for **Gaston County Schools**, was appointed to serve on the Board of Directors for the Kings Mountain Historical Museum.

11. The following middle school and high school students from **Gaston County Schools** were selected for the 2026 all-district band clinic: **Sadie McLain** (clarinet), **Williams Sanchez Rodriguez** (trombone), **Kevin Le** (oboe), **Davis Lehman** (horn) and **Camille Wright** (horn) from **Belmont Middle School**; **Cassidy Allen** (baritone) and **Kevin Cruz** (horn) from **Bessemer City Middle School**; **Tucker Gilbert** (baritone) from **Cherryville High School**; **Carter Campbell** (alto saxophone) and **Copeland Smith** (trumpet) from **Stuart W. Cramer High School**; **Matthew Allen** (horn), **Cyrus Baltimore** (tuba), **Mackenzie Hart** (oboe) and **Vincent Vernitsky** (trumpet) from **East Gaston High School**; **Annalee Allison** (bass clarinet), **Kolton Davidson** (trumpet), **Andy Esquivel** (trumpet), **Nicholas Flores** (trumpet), **Rose Pichardo** (contra bass clarinet) and **Skyler Kisby** (trumpet) from **W.C. Friday Middle School**; **Abram Comer** (trombone), **Caiden McDaniel** (horn) and **Annabelle Radford** (bassoon) from **Forestview High School**; **Ronald Tovilla Pablo** (alto saxophone) and **Ruby Ruiz-Vargas** (clarinet) from **North Gaston High School**; **Iyanna Brianne Flores** (clarinet), **Ayden Kisby-Jones** (clarinet), **Joanis Mendoza** (percussion) and **Catherine Putnam** (horn) from **Highland School of Technology**; **Blake Swafford** (clarinet) from **Mount Holly Middle School**; **Connor Abernathy** (tenor saxophone) and **Emmett Medici** (percussion) from **Stanley Middle School**; and **Nahla Threats** (trumpet) from **York Chester Middle School**.

12. **Shevinique Barnes**, a student at **Ashbrook High School**, will represent Jamaica at the U-17 CONCACAF World Cup soccer qualifiers.

13. The Gaston County Office of Emergency Management and Fire Services received a generous donation of books from Promising Pages to support literacy for third, fourth, and fifth-grade students at **Bessemer City Central Elementary** and **Tryon Elementary School** as part of this year's Flash a Light on Literacy program.

14. The **Ashbrook High School** football team was recognized at a Gastonia city council meeting for an undefeated regular season and winning the Big South 5A/6A conference title.

15. The **Ashbrook High School** student council raised $1,000 and donated it to support the school's teachers.

16. The **Belmont Middle School** and **Costner Elementary School** cafeteria staff earned a 100 percent sanitation rating.

17. **Bessemer City High School** students who demonstrated proficiency on the end-of-course tests were rewarded with a bowling outing at Liberty Lanes in Gastonia.

18. **Brookside Elementary** first-grade students received a visit from two Gastonia police officers, who brought the K-9 officer, Bo, a Top Dog award winner from the 2024 American Humane Hero Dog Awards, to the school for a special program.

19. Students from **Cramerton Middle School** earned top honors at the Mid-Carolina Region Scholastic Art Awards. **Lara Forstinger** received a Gold Key for her sculpture, "Lionfish." **Marina Lopes Mecabo** earned a Gold Key for her ceramics piece, "Perla." **Harley Tuttle** received a Silver Key for ceramics, "Sea Serpent." Their artwork will be on display at the Mint Museum in Charlotte from March 1 until April 19.

20. **Addison Royall** of **Stuart W. Cramer High School** was recognized by the Daughters of the American Revolution for her participation in the DAR scholarship program, placing second in the Good Citizen essay contest.

21. Members of the **East Gaston High School** football team jumped in to help their neighbors during the recent winter storm by shoveling driveways and lending a hand in the community.

22. **East Gaston High School** participated in the SkillsUSA Western Regional Competition. Winners include **Carleigh Clippard**, first place in Adobe Visual Design; **Sara Clippard**, first place in Automotive Beginner; **Ridge Pearson,** first place in Automotive Service MLR; **Ben Sawyer**, third place; **Ryland Martinez-Caulder**, fourth place; **Tommy Price**, fifth place; **Evan Murphy**, first place in Automotive Tool ID; **McCoy Hicks**, second place; **Nick McClellan**, third place; **Sam Cadle**, second place in Construction Tool ID; **Eduardo Aragon-Cortes** and **Jackson Kuveikis**, first place in Debate; **Eduardo Aragon-Cortes**, first place in Extemporaneous Speaking; **Ella Wise**, first place in First Aid CPR; **Abram Padilla**, first place in Photography; and **Payton Lenox**, first place in Poster.

23. **East Gaston High School's Wyatt Smith** earned a bronze medal in the 4A diving state championship.

24. **Forestview High School** teacher **Christopher McKay** received a grant from the North Carolina Council on the Holocaust to provide a class set of "Night" books by Elie Wiesel for the History of the Holocaust course.

25. **Gaston Early College High School** students **Lila St. Romain** and **Adam St. Romain** were selected to participate in the Western Regional All-State Honors Orchestra and will perform on February 28 at Appalachian State University.

26. **North Gaston High School** teacher **Laura Robinson** has been selected to participate in a summer professional development program that will include a six-day trip to Philadelphia during the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. Project SALUTE is a three-year program supported by the U.S. Department of Education through an American History and Civics National Activities Grant awarded to National Performance in Education. The program offers educators in North Carolina and South Carolina meaningful opportunities for professional growth through hands-on learning at important historical sites across the United States.

27. **North Gaston High School** teacher **Brenda Hensley** won the Carolina Panthers Valentine's Day contest and received a visit from Sir Purr, who brought roses and a gift bag from Kendra Scott.

28. **South Point High School's O'Brian Lowery Jr.** set a school record by scoring 45 points during the team's 101-82 win against Kings Mountain High School.

29. Girl Scouts at **Southwest Middle School** collected and donated 92 cans of chicken noodle soup to Cancer Services of Gaston County.

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 2/16/2026

Agenda Item Title/Topic: School Board Recognition Month

Type of Item: ☐ **Consent** ☐ **Action** ☒ **Information**

Main Points:
School Board Recognition Month is an annual observance when school districts across the United States take time to recognize and honor the citizens who are elected to serve on a local Board of Education.

To recognize and honor the Gaston County Board of Education, each member is being "adopted" by a school class.

Fiscal Implications:

None

Recommendation:
Bringing attention to School Board Recognition Month in Gaston County Schools recognizes the members of the Gaston County Board of Education and highlights their outstanding service to the schools in our community.

Policy Implications:

None

Strategic Goal Alignment:
Goal 3. Every employee is capable and committed to the education of the whole child.

Submitted by: Todd Hagans, Chief Communications Officer

Department: Communications/Public Information (Superintendent's Office)

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 2/16/2026

Agenda Item Title/Topic: Career and Technical Education (CTE) Month Proclamation

Type of Item: ☐ **Consent** ☒ **Action** ☐ **Information**

Main Points:

In February, schools across the United States observe Career and Technical Education (CTE) Month to bring attention to the importance of job-related programs, coursework, apprenticeships, and internships in K-12 public education that prepare students for career readiness and success in the workforce.

Gaston County Schools is pleased to join other school systems in celebrating Career and Technical Education Month. See the proclamation for more information.

Fiscal Implications: None

Recommendation: The recommendation is for the Board of Education to approve the proclamation for Career and Technical Education Month. Doing so will recognize the Board of Education's support for CTE-oriented programs and opportunities that are available to students in Gaston County Schools.

Policy Implications: None

Strategic Goal Alignment:

Goal 1. Every student will graduate prepared for post-secondary opportunities.

Submitted by: Todd Hagans, Chief Communications Officer
Department: Superintendent's Office/Communications

Gaston COUNTY SCHOOLS

PROCLAMATION

Career and Technical Education Month
in Gaston County Schools

WHEREAS, Career and Technical Education (CTE) is an important component of K-12 education that offers students many opportunities to gain academic, vocational, and employability skills that prepare them for career readiness and success in the workplace; and

WHEREAS, each February, schools across the United States observe Career and Technical Education Month to celebrate what CTE does to provide meaningful experiences, increase engagement and achievement, enhance the overall quality of public education; and prepare students to become qualified and contributing members of the local workforce; and

WHEREAS, Career and Technical Education creates pathways for students to explore careers and become involved in coursework, internships, and hands-on training in fields related to healthcare, engineering, technology, business and finance, construction, public safety, manufacturing, education, agriculture, and other areas; and

WHEREAS, we are extremely proud of the CTE programs that are available in Gaston County Schools, and we sincerely appreciate what our educators do each day to enrich the lives of students through Career and Technical Education.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Gaston County Board of Education is proud to proclaim February 2026 as

Career and Technical Education Month

in Gaston County Schools and encourages everyone to show their support for CTE and acknowledge how CTE programs equip students to thrive both personally and professionally in specialized career fields as well as in college, the military, and our global society.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this proclamation be made a part of the minutes of the Board of Education, adopted this the sixteenth day of February, 2026.

shaping our future

Joshua D. Crisp, Chairman
Gaston County Board of Education

Morgen A. Houchard, Superintendent
Gaston County Schools

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 2/16/2026

Agenda Item Title/Topic: **Classroom Moment**

Type of Item: ☐ **Consent** ☐ **Action** ☒ **Information**

Main Points: The Classroom Moment will highlight the new Teacher Support Facilitator role, which provides targeted professional development and coaching for first-year teachers. This role supports successful integration into the school system, strengthens instructional practice, promotes teacher retention, and ultimately enhances student achievement through comprehensive, ongoing support.

Fiscal Implications: NA

Recommendation: NA

Policy Implications: NA

Strategic Goal Alignment:

GCS Goal I: Every student will graduate prepared for college, the workforce, and other life-enhancing opportunities

GCS Goal II: Every employee uses innovative practices to serve all students, parents, and other stakeholders.

Submitted by: Dr. Shannon Hullett **Department:** Academic Services

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 2/16/2026

Agenda Item Title/Topic: Public Expression

Type of Item: ☐ **Consent** ☐ **Action** ☒ **Information**

Main Points:

The Board of Education agenda has been made available to the public for review. Citizens wishing to speak before the Board about an agenda item or other topic may do so during Public Expression.

Fiscal Implications:

None

Recommendation:

The Board of Education will establish time (30 minutes) during the regular monthly meeting for Public Expression. Any citizen not heard during this time may be heard at the end of the business session.

Policy Implications:

Policy Code: 2310 Public Participation at Board Meetings.

Strategic Goal Alignment:

Goal 1. Every student will graduate prepared for post-secondary opportunities.

Submitted by: Todd Hagans
Chief Communications Officer

Department: Communications
(Superintendent's Office)

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 2/16/2026

Agenda Item Title/Topic: Approval/Correction of Minutes

Type of Item: ☐ **Consent** ☒ **Action** ☐ **Information**

Main Points:
Approval of Minutes from:
January 23, 2026 (Regular Meeting)
January 23,2026 (Board Retreat)

Efficient consideration of matters pertinent to the successful operation of the school system.

Fiscal Implications:
None

Recommendation:
The Board will approve accurate minutes consistent with the Open Meetings Law.

Policy Implications:
Policy Code: 2320 Compliance with the Open Meetings Law.

Strategic Goal Alignment:
Goal 1. Every student will graduate prepared for post-secondary opportunities.

Submitted by: Dr. Morgen A. Houchard **Department:** Superintendent

Gaston County Schools
Board of Education
Friday, January 23, 2026
Meeting 9:00 a.m.
Regular Meeting

MINUTES

The Gaston County Board of Education met in a regular session on Friday, January 23, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. in The Linda Rader Staff Development Center, Cramerton, NC. 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 excused.

Additional attendees include: Superintendent Dr. Morgen A. Houchard, Attorney Sonya McGraw, Associate Superintendents Gary Hoskins and Tonya Kales, Assistant Superintendents Bessie Harvey and Rebekka Powers, Chief Communications Officer Todd Hagans, Chief Technology Officer Curtis Poplin, Executive Director of Human Resources Beth Suber, and Board Clerk Cindy Beck.

Chairman Crisp called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and welcomed everyone.

Invocation
Mr. A.M. Stephens III led the invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance
Superintendent Houchard led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Agenda Adoption - Action
The Board considered Agenda Adoption – Action

Motion to adopt the Agenda as presented was made by Mr. A.M. Stephens III; seconded by Ms. Dot Cherry, motion carried unanimously. (8-0)

Good News – Information
Mr. Todd Hagans presented the Good News and announcements for January.
School Board Recognition Month

First, school districts across the country observe School Board Recognition Month in January. It is a time to recognize the work, leadership, and dedication of Board of Education members, who have the responsibility of providing vision and guidance for school district operations.

We plan to acknowledge School Board Recognition Month during the regular meeting on February 16.
Classrooms will be "adopting" Board members, and representatives from the schools and classes will be present for the meeting to help bring attention to the special occasion and say "thank you" to the Board of Education for all that you do to serve our students, families, and employees.

United Way recognition
Also coming up at the February regular meeting, we will be ready to announce our grand total for fundraising for the United Way of Gaston County. We will invite the top 10 fundraising schools to be with us, and it is going to be a special time of recognition for the schools that stepped up to support our fundraising campaign.

All-District Honors Band
Last weekend, we had middle school and high school students auditioning for the South Central All-District Band Clinic, and we have students who were chosen to represent us in the all-district honors band, which features students from across the Charlotte region.

The clinic is next weekend, hosted again here in Gaston County Schools, with the concert for the public on Saturday, January 31, at 2:00 p.m. at Stuart W. Cramer High School.

Resolution: Coretta Scott King Book Awards Literature Week - Action
Chairman Crisp recognized Mr. Todd Hagans, who read the Coretta Scott King Resolution.
WHEREAS, reading is a foundation for success and an essential tool in the learning process, and students are encouraged to imagine, discover, learn, and grow through the exploration of literature; and
WHEREAS, the Coretta Scott King Book Awards are presented each year by the American Library Association to recognize excellent books for children and young adults that are written and illustrated by African Americans and reflect the African American experience; and
WHEREAS, the United States observes the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day holiday in January and Black History Month in February, the Coretta Scott King Book Awards Literature Week (January 19-23, 2026) coincides with the two national observances and also is part of the America 250 celebration to highlight the many accomplishments and contributions of African American authors, illustrators, poets, essayists, novelists, and others who have had a significant influence on literature in the United States and around the world; and
WHEREAS, educators are encouraged to bring attention to the books that have won the Coretta Scott King Award, as these literary works are ideal for classroom teaching and learning and student engagement.
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Gaston County Board of Education is proud to support enriching activities that promote reading, raise awareness of history, and celebrate culture and also commends the efforts of the African American Museum of History and Culture at Loray Mill to highlight the significance of African American history, culture, and literature in Gaston County.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be made a part of the minutes of the Board of Education, adopted this the twenty-third day of January, 2026.

Motion
Motion was made by Ms. Dot Cherry, seconded by Mr. Lee Dedmon, that the Board
Approve Resolution: Coretta Scott King Book Awards Literature Week

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

(View Resolution)

Public Expression – Information
None

Approval/Correction of Minutes – Action
Motion to adopt minutes of December 15, 2025, as presented was made by Mr. Lee Dedmon; seconded by Mrs. Janna Smith, motion carried unanimously. (8-0)

Consent Agenda – Action
The Board considered the Consent Agenda:

A. Recommended Personnel
B. Budget Amendments & Budget Transfers
C. Construction/Repair Change Orders
D. Resolution to Declare Certain Real Property Surplus Property (TRC)
E. Sanitary Sewer Easement - Forest Heights/Learning Place (Phase 2)
F. Contracts
-Replacement of the Intercom System at Woodhill Elementary
- Contract Amendment for Security Vestibule Design for Cherryville Elementary

Motion
Motion to adopt the Consent Agenda as presented was made by Ms. Dot Cherry ; seconded by Mr. A.M. Stephens III. Motion carried unanimously. (8-0)

Superintendent's Comments
Superintendent Houchard asked to reserve his comments for the Board Retreat.

Closing Remarks

Chairman Crisp asked the Board to consider going into Closed Session under, N.C.G.S. §143-318.11(a)(6) Personnel, and N.C.G.S. §143-318.11(a)(3) Consultation with Attorney.

Motion to go into Closed Session was made by Ms. Dot Cherry; seconded by Mr. Brent Moore; motion carried unanimously. (8-0)

The Board went into Closed Session at 9:08 am.

The Board returned to Open Session at 9:21 a.m.

Adjournment
All business having been conducted, a Motion to adjourn was made by Mr. A.M. Stephens III, seconded by Mrs. Janna Smith, and the motion carried unanimously. (8-0)

The Board Meeting adjourned at 9:22 a.m.

Approved:

_____
Josh Crisp, Chairman
[Corporate Seal]

_____
Morgen A. Houchard, Secretary

Date Approved: _____

Gaston County Schools
Board of Education
Friday, January 23, 2026
Board Retreat Meeting
MINUTES

The Gaston County Board of Education met in a Retreat Work session on Friday, January 23, 2026, at 9:25 a.m. in The Linda Rader Staff Development Center, Cramerton, NC. 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 excused.

Additional attendees include: Superintendent Dr. Morgen A. Houchard, Attorney Sonya McGraw, Associate Superintendents Gary Hoskins and Tonya Kales, Assistant Superintendents Bessie Harvey and Rebekka Powers, Chief Communications Officer Todd Hagans, Chief Technology Officer Curtis Poplin, Executive Director of Human Resources Beth Suber, and Board Clerk Cindy Beck.

Welcome
Chairman Crisp called the meeting to order at 9:23 a.m. and welcomed everyone.

State of the Schools Address
Chairman Crisp recognized Superintendent Houchard, who presented a PowerPoint on the State of the Schools.

(View PowerPoint)

Board Responsibilities and Roles
Chairman Crisp recognized Chris Campbell, Attorney with the law firm Campbell Shatley, PLLC, who shared information on Board responsibilities and roles.

Board discussion occurred.

Demographic Study Update
Chairman Crisp recognized Chief of Staff Tom Nencetti and Matthew Cropper, President of Cropper GIS Consulting, LLC, who shared information on Gaston County Schools Demographic Study and Utilization Report.

Board discussion occurred.

(View PowerPoint)

Budget Discussion
Chairman Crisp recognized Associate Superintendent Gary Hoskins, who presented a PowerPoint on the current status of the Budget for 2026-2027 process and challenges.

(View PowerPoint)

Board discussion occurred.

Facilities Report/Plan
Bond and Capital Work - Present/Future
Chairman Crisp recognized Assistant Superintendent Bessie Harvey, who presented a PowerPoint on the importance of Bond Funding and why it matters, Status of Bond Projects–Completed, In-progress, and future plans.

(View PowerPoint Below)

Board discussion occurred.

Student Support Services
Assistant Superintendent Rebekka Powers presented a PowerPoint on School Choice with a discussion on the alignment and the purpose of choice programs, focusing on the current status, and planning our path forward

(View PowerPoint)

Board discussion occurred.

Academic Services
Associate Superintendent, Tonya Kales presented the first semester High School State EOC results.

(View PowerPoint)

Board discussion occurred.

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

The Board Meeting adjourned at 3:12 p.m.

Approved:

_____ _____

Josh Crisp, Chairman
[Corporate Seal]

Morgen A. Houchard, Secretary

Date Approved: _____

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 2/16/2026

Agenda Item Title/Topic: Acceptance of the June 30, 2025, Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR)

Type of Item: ☐ **Consent** ☒ **Action** ☐ **Information**

Main Points:

Forvis Mazars, LLP (Forvis), have completed their annual audit of our financial statements for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025. In the opinion of Forvis, the financial statements for Gaston County Schools were presented fairly in all material respects. Josh Puryear, CPA, an Assurance Director with Forvis, will review the notable items in the ACFR as well as their compliance findings. A hard copy of the ACFR has been provided for your review. Once the AFCR has been accepted by the Board, a hard copy will be distributed to the County Clerk and any other interested parties. The ACFR will also be available on the District's website.

Fiscal Implications:

NA

Recommendation:

Board moves to accept the June 30, 2025, Annual Comprehensive Financial Report.

Policy Implications:

Policy Code: 8310 Annual Independent Audit

Strategic Goal Alignment:

Other: Policy or Gen Statute. See above.

Submitted by: Gary F. Hoskins, CFO and Associate Superintendent

Department: Finance

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 2/16/26

Agenda Item Title/Topic: Gaston Early College Calendars 2026-2027

Adoption **Type of Item:** ☐ **Consent** ☒ **Action** ☐ **Information**

Main Points:

A 2026-2027 draft calendar for the Gaston Early College High School and Gaston Early College of Medical Sciences, which are located on the Gaston College campus in Dallas, was developed by the school principals and school staff in consultation with representatives of Gaston College. The draft calendar for the two Early College high schools aligns with the Gaston College academic calendar, which is a standard practice and necessary to accommodate Early College students taking college-level coursework and coincide with the operation of Gaston College.

Fiscal Implications:

N/A

Recommendation:

The recommendation is for the Board of Education to approve the 2026-2027 draft calendar for the Gaston Early College High School and Gaston Early College of Medical Sciences.

Policy Implications: None

NC General Statute §115C-84.2 guides the work of the Gaston County Schools calendar committee. The statute indicates when the school year begins and ends as well as provides requirements for teacher workdays, student and employee holidays, and teacher annual leave.

Other: Policy or Gen Statute. See above.

Submitted by: Kevin Doran **Department:** Academic Services

School Closed / Holiday

Annual Leave

Mandated Teacher Workday

First and Last Day of School

Optional Teacher Workday

Red College Supervision / College Break

Gaston Early College High School

2026-2027 DRAFT School Calendar

July 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	

August 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					15

20 employee days

September 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			
						20

22 employee days

October 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
						20

22 employee days

November 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					17

21 employee days

December 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		
						14

23 employee days

January 2027

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						17

21 employee days

February 2027

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

20 employee days

March 2027

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

23 employee days

April 2027

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	
						19

22 employee days

May 2027

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

21 employee days

June 2027

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			

Calendar Template © www.calendarlabs.com

Student Days	174 86 - 1st Semester 88 - 2nd Semester	**514 hrs = 1st Sem** **526 hrs = 2nd Sem**	**>1025 (Must build in some extra hours for snow days)**
Employee Days	**215**		
AL =	**10**	**11/25, 12/21, 12/22, 12/23, 12/29, 12/30, 12/31, 3/29, 3/30, 3/31**	

Calendar Notes:
August 4 - Optional Teacher Workday
August 5 - August 10, 2025 - Mandated Teacher Workday
August 11 - 1st Day of School
August 11, 12, 13, 14, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21 - College Supervision (Gaston College Closed)
September 7 - Labor Day (Holiday)
September 25 - Optional Teacher Workday
October 9 - First 9-Week Grading Period Ends (42 days)
October 15 - Report Cards Distributed
October 15 - Parent / Teacher Conferences; Early Dismissal @ 1:00 pm
October 15, 16, 19, 20 - College Supervision (Gaston College Closed)
October 16, 19 - Optional Teacher Workdays
November 6 - Veterans' Day Observed (Holiday)
November 25 - Teacher Annual Leave
November 26, 27 - Thanksgiving Break
December 14, 15, 16, 17, 18 - Early College Exams
December 16, 17, 18 - College Supervision (Gaston College Closed)
December 18 - End of 1st Semester / Second 9-Week Grading Period Ends
December 21, 22, 23 - Teacher Annual Leave
December 24, 25, 28 - Christmas (Holidays)
December 29, 30, 31 - Teacher Annual Leave
January 1 - New Year's Day (Holiday)
January 4, 5 - Mandated Teacher Workday
January 6 - Students' 1st Day of Spring Semester
January 6, 7, 8 - College Supervision (Gaston College Closed)
January 7 - Second 9-Week Report Cards Distributed
January 18- Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day (Holiday)
February 15 - Optional Teacher Workday
February 15, 16 - College Supervision (Gaston College Closed)
March 5 - Third 9-Week Grading Period Ends (41 days)
March 8, 9 - College Supervision (Gaston College Closed)
March 11 - Parent / Teacher Conferences; Early Dismissal @ 1:00 pm
March 11 - Third 9-Week Report Cards Distributed
March 12 - Optional Teacher Workday
March 24, 25 - College Supervision (Gaston College Closed)
March 26 - Good Friday/Easter (Holiday)
March 29, 30, 31 - Teacher Annual Leave
April 1, 2 - Optional Teacher Workday
May 14 - Gaston College Last Day of Classes
May 14, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21 - College Supervision (Gaston College Closed)
May 17, 18, 19, 20, 21 - Early College Exams
May 20 - Early Colleges Graduation

Inclement Weather Make-Up Days: December 21, February 15, March 12, April 23,

Calendar Template © www.calendarlabs.com

Historical School Calendars

- GECHS 2019-20 Proposed Calendar
- GECHS 2020-21 Proposed Calendar
- GECHS 2020-21 Proposed Calendar - POST NC Senate Bill 704
- GECHS 2021-22 Proposed Calendar
- GECs 2022-23 Proposed Calendar
- Gaston Early College - 2024-25 Proposed Calendar
- Cook: Gaston Early College - 2025-26 Proposed Calendar

Calendar Template © www.calendarlabs.com

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 2/16/2026

Agenda Item Title/Topic: Strategic Plan 2030

Type of Item: ☐ **Consent** ☒ **Action** ☐ **Information**

Main Points:

School leaders, along with various stakeholders, spent the past eight months developing the Gaston County Schools Strategic Plan 2030. The plan will serve as a "road map" to guide and direct the school system for the next five years.

The Strategic Plan outlines the vision, mission, core values, and priorities/goals for Gaston County Schools. The plan was developed using feedback and input from more than 2,000 people, including the Board of Education, students, teachers/staff, parents, school and district administrators, community and business representatives, and others.

Once approved by the Board of Education, the strategic plan will be available on the Gaston County Schools website.

Fiscal Implications: Cost associated with promoting the strategic plan to stakeholders will be minimal. Funds will be needed for printed materials (posters, handouts, etc.); however, promotion through the website, social media, and other channels of communication will not incur an expense.

Recommendation: The recommendation is for the Board of Education to approve the Gaston County Schools Strategic Plan 2030.

Policy Implications: None

Strategic Goal Alignment:

Goal 1. Every student will graduate prepared for post-secondary opportunities.

Submitted by: Dr. Morgen A. Houchard **Department:** Superintendent

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 2/16/2026

Agenda Item Title/Topic: Consent Agenda

Type of Item: ☒ **Consent** ☒ **Action** ☐ **Information**

Main Points:
Approval of the Consent Agenda by the Board for the following items:

A. Recommended Personnel
B. Budget Amendments & Budget Transfers
C. Construction/Repair Change Orders
D. Service Road Right of Way for Aquatic Center Near Carr Elementary
E. Policy Updates
F. Contracts
   -Professional Design Services for Belmont Central Elementary School and New Hope Elementary School Additions and Renovations
   -Innovation Schools Year 2 UVA PLE Partnership

Fiscal Implications:
As stated in each Agenda item.

Recommendation:
Consent items will be adopted with a single motion, second, and vote, unless a request for removal from the Consent Agenda is heard from a Board member.

Policy Implications:
Policy Code: 1010 Board Authority and Duties.

Strategic Goal Alignment:
Goal 1. Every student will graduate prepared for post-secondary opportunities.

Submitted by: Dr. Morgen A. Houchard **Department:** Superintendent

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 2/16/2026

Agenda Item Title/Topic: Recommended Personnel

Type of Item: ☒ **Consent** ☒ **Action** ☐ **Information**

Main Points:
In accordance with the provisions of G.S. 115C-276(j), "It shall be the duty of the Superintendent to recommend and the Board of Education to elect all principals, teachers, and other school personnel in the administrative unit." It is also within the powers of the Board to hear requests for approved leave, retirement and resignations or terminations in accordance with employment and dismissal regulations.

Fiscal Implications:

N/A

Recommendation:

Approve personnel as recommended.

Policy Implications:

Policy Code: 7100 Recruitment and Selection of Personnel.

Strategic Goal Alignment:

Goal 3. Every employee is capable and committed to the education of the whole child.

Submitted by: Dr. Morgen A. Houchard **Department:** Human Resources

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 2/16/2026

Agenda Item Title/Topic: Budget Amendments and Budget Transfers

Type of Item: ☒ **Consent** ☒ **Action** ☐ **Information**

Main Points:

Budget amendments are needed to adjust the approved budget to reflect actual changes in revenue and budget transfers are needed to transfer money to proper expenditure codes as requested by fund managers.

Fiscal Implications:

Makes adjustments to the 2025-2026 budget.

Recommendation:

Approval of the attached listing of recommended budget amendments and transfers.

Policy Implications:

Policy Code: 8300 Fiscal Management Standards

Strategic Goal Alignment:

Other: Policy or Gen Statute. See above.

Submitted by: Gary F. Hoskins, CFO and Associate Superintendent

Department: Finance

Gaston County Schools
Changes in Appropriations
2025-2026 Budget Resolution - January
Transfers Between Functions

State Public School Fund

Function	Description	Expense Increase	Expense Decrease
51000	Regular Instructional Services		1,908,750
52000	Special Population Services		175,000
53000	Alternative Programs and Services		7,420
58000	School-Based Support Services	89,136	
65000	Operational Support Services	2,002,034	
		2,091,169	2,091,169

Explanation: These transfers adjust budgeted amounts per requests from fund managers/principals.

Gaston County Schools
Changes in Appropriations
2025-2026 Budget Resolution - January
Transfers Between Functions

Local Current Expense Fund

Function	Description	Expense Increase	Expense Decrease
51000	Regular Instructional Services	600,000	
55000	Co-Curricular Services		5,500
64000	Technology Support Services	340,885	
65000	Operational Support Services		834,841
66000	Financial and Human Resource Services		100,000
68000	System-Wide Pupil Support Services		4,011
69000	Policy, Leadership and Communication/Public Information Services	3,467	
		944,352	944,352

Explanation: These transfers adjust budgeted amounts per requests from fund managers/principals.

Gaston County Schools
Changes in Appropriations
2025-2026 Budget Resolution - January
Transfers Between Functions

Federal Grants Fund

Function	Description	Expense Increase	Expense Decrease
52000	Special Population Services	8,377	
53000	Alternative Programs and Services	78,429	
58000	School-Based Support Services		86,985
62000	Special Population Support and Development Services		8,836
65000	Operational Support Services	3,944	
81000	Payments to Other Governmental Units	5,072	
		95,821	95,821

Explanation: These transfers adjust budgeted amounts per requests from fund managers/principals.

Gaston County Schools
Changes in Appropriations
2025-2026 Budget Resolution - January
Transfers Between Functions

Restricted Grants Fund

Function	Description	Expense Increase	Expense Decrease
52000	Special Population Services	355,000	
53000	Alternative Programs and Services		150,000
54000	School Leadership Services	145,000	
58000	School-Based Support Services		400,000
62000	Special Population Support and Development Services	25,000	
81000	Payments to Other Governmental Units	25,000	
		550,000	550,000

Explanation: These transfers adjust budgeted amounts per requests from fund managers/principals.

Gaston County Schools
Changes in Appropriations
2025-2026 Budget Resolution - January
Proposed Expenditures and Sources of Revenue

State Public School Fund

#	Function	Description	Expense Increase (Decrease)	Revenue Increase (Decrease)
1	31000	Revenue - State Public School Fund		370,862
	51000	Regular Instructional Services	173,817	
	52000	Special Population Services	22,246	
	53000	Alternative Programs and Services	3,588	
	54000	School Leadership Services	38,709	
	58000	School-Based Support Services	33,135	
	62000	Special Population Support and Development Services	6,586	
	64000	Technology Support Services	3,320	
	65000	Operational Support Services	75,338	
	66000	Financial and Human Resource Services	7,869	
	67000	Accountability Services	6,256	
	This amendment budgets funds for the Non-Contributory Emp Benefits Allotment - FY26 (PRC0009)			
2	31000	Revenue - State Public School Fund		38,848
	51000	Regular Instructional Services	1,290	
	54000	School Leadership Services	37,559	
	This amendment budgets funds for the Staff Development Allotment - FY26 (PRC0028)			
3	31000	Revenue - State Public School Fund		59,400
	51000	Regular Instructional Services	59,400	
	This amendment budgets funds for the Children with Disabilities-Special Funds - DPI Allotment Revision #43 - FY26 (PRC0063)			
4	31000	Revenue - State Public School Fund		394,122
	51000	Regular Instructional Services	394,122	
	This amendment budgets funds for the Children with Disabilities-Special State DPI Allotment Revision #43 - FY26 (PRC0089)			
Total State Public School Fund Amendments			863,232	863,232

Gaston County Schools
Changes in Appropriations
2025-2026 Budget Resolution - January
Proposed Expenditures and Sources of Revenue

Federal Current Expense Fund

#	Function	Description	Expense Increase (Decrease)	Revenue Increase (Decrease)
1	36000	Federal Revenue		8,208
	52000	Special Population Services	8,208	
	This amendment budgets funds for the IDEA Title VI-B Handicapped -Children with Disabilities Grant - FY26 (PRC0060)			
2	36000	Federal Revenue		6,902
	52000	Special Population Services	6,902	
	This amendment budgets funds for the State Improvement Grant - Children with Disabilities Grant - FY26 (PRC0082)			
3	36000	Federal Revenue		62,432
	61000	Support and Development Services	62,432	
	This amendment budgets funds for the ESEA Title I - Improving Teacher Quality Grant - FY26 (PRC0103)			
4	36000	Federal Revenue		38,871
	52000	Special Population Services	38,871	
	This amendment budgets funds for the Language Acquisition Grant - FY26 (PRC0104)			
5	36000	Federal Revenue		215
	53000	Alternative Programs and Services	215	
	This amendment budgets funds for the Student Support & Academic Grant - FY26 (PRC0108)			
6	36000	Federal Revenue		(103,139)
	53000	Alternative Programs and Services	(86,515)	
	63000	Alternative Programs and Services - Support and Development Services	962	
	65000	Operational Support Services	(17,586)	
	This amendment budgets funds for the 21St Century Comm Learn Center - ASPIRE Grant - FY26 (PRC0110)			

Federal Current Expense Fund

#	Function	Description	Expense Increase (Decrease)	Revenue Increase (Decrease)
7	36000	Federal Revenue		83,693
	53000	Alternative Programs and Services	80,850	
	81000	Payments to Other Governmental Units	2,843	
		This amendment budgets funds for the Language Acquisition - Increase Grant - FY26 (PRC0111)		
Total State Public School Fund Amendments			97,182	97,182

Gaston County Schools
Changes in Appropriations
2025-2026 Budget Resolution - January
Proposed Expenditures and Sources of Revenue

Restricted Grants Fund

#	Function	Description	Expense Increase (Decrease)	Revenue Increase (Decrease)
1	48000	Local Sources - Restricted		28,999
	66000	Financial and Human Resource Services	28,999	
	This amendment budgets funds for the Central Office Administration allotment - FY26 (PRC0002)			
2	48000	Local Sources - Restricted		84,251
	66000	Financial and Human Resource Services	84,251	
	This amendment budgets funds for the Non-Contributory Emp Benefits allotment - FY26 (PRC0009)			
3	48000	Local Sources - Restricted		(110,452)
	51000	Regular Instructional Services	(110,452)	
	This amendment adjust funds for the Drivers' Education allotment - FY26 (PRC0012)			
4	48000	Local Sources - Restricted		(2,069)
	51000	Regular Instructional Services	(2,069)	
	This amendment budgets funds for the Career Technical Education - Months of Employment allotment - FY26 (PRC0013)			
5	48000	Local Sources - Restricted		(78,944)
	51000	Regular Instructional Services	(78,944)	
	This amendment budgets funds for the Career Technical Education - Program Support allotment - FY26 (PRC0014)			
6	48000	Local Sources - Restricted		(36,190)
	52000	Special Population Services	(36,190)	
	This amendment budgets funds for the Children with Disabilities allotment - FY26 (PRC0032)			
7	48000	Local Sources - Restricted		(4,375)
	52000	Special Population Services	(4,375)	
	This amendment adjust funds for the Academically or Intellectually Gifted allotment - FY26 (PRC0034)			
8	48000	Local Sources - Restricted		(3,546)
	72000	Nutrition Services	(3,546)	
	This amendment adjust funds for the Child Nutrition allotment - FY26 (PRC0035)			
9	48000	Local Sources - Restricted		515,000
	58000	School-Based Support Services	515,000	
	This amendment adjust funds for the Safety and Security allotment - FY26 (PRC0039)			

Restricted Grants Fund

#	Function	Description	Expense Increase (Decrease)	Revenue Increase (Decrease)
10	48000	Local Sources - Restricted		(162,636)
	51000	Regular Instructional Services	(162,636)	
	This amendment budgets funds for the Instructional/Student Support allotment - FY26 (PRC0216)			
11	48000	Local Sources - Restricted		12,209
	51000	Regular Instructional Services	12,209	
	This amendment adjust funds for the East Gaston High allotment - FY26 (PRC0390)			
12	48000	Local Sources - Restricted		(31,406)
	58000	School-Based Support Services	(31,406)	
	This amendment budgets funds for the Business Partnership Brochure allotment - FY26 (PRC0539)			
13	48000	Local Sources - Restricted		16,975
	51000	Regular Instructional Services	1,397	
	55000	Co-Curricular Services	15,578	
	This amendment budgets funds for the Positions From School Funds allotment - FY26 (PRC0540)			
14	48000	Local Sources - Restricted		(654)
	51000	Regular Instructional Services	(654)	
	This amendment budgets funds for the Science Fair allotment - FY26 (PRC0544)			
15	48000	Local Sources - Restricted		(293)
	52000	Special Population Services	(293)	
	This amendment budgets funds for the Robotics allotment - FY26 (PRC0571)			
16	48000	Local Sources - Restricted		(8,083)
	55000	Co-Curricular Services	(8,083)	
	This amendment adjust funds for the NCHSSA-Coaches Certifications allotment - FY26 (PRC0580)			
17	48000	Local Sources - Restricted		(147)
	51000	Regular Instructional Services	(147)	
	This amendment budgets funds for the School Health Advisory Committee (SHAC) allotment - FY26 (PRC0590)			
18	48000	Local Sources - Restricted		(5,260)
	51000	Regular Instructional Services	(5,260)	
	This amendment budgets funds for the Duke Energy-Middle Sch Books allotment - FY26 (PRC0592)			
19	48000	Local Sources - Restricted		(8,384)
	53000	Alternative Programs and Services	(8,384)	
	This amendment budgets funds for the Social Worker's Benevolence allotment - FY26 (PRC0601)			

Restricted Grants Fund

#	Function	Description	Expense Increase (Decrease)	Revenue Increase (Decrease)
20	48000	Local Sources - Restricted		(14,512)
	51000	Regular Instructional Services	(14,512)	
	This amendment adjust funds for the Golden Leaf Grant allotment - FY26 (PRC0603)			
21	48000	Local Sources - Restricted		(1,091)
	54000	School Leadership Services	(1,091)	
	This amendment budgets funds for the Instructional/Student Support allotment - FY26 (PRC0605)			
22	48000	Local Sources - Restricted		55,525
	51000	Regular Instructional Services	55,525	
	This amendment adjust funds for the Commissioners' School allotment - FY26 (PRC0607)			
23	48000	Local Sources - Restricted		(33,329)
	51000	Regular Instructional Services	(33,257)	
	61000	Support and Development Services	(72)	
	This amendment budgets funds for the Teacher/Admin Of The Year allotment - FY26 (PRC0608)			
24	48000	Local Sources - Restricted		(17,923)
	51000	Regular Instructional Services	(17,923)	
	This amendment budgets funds for the School of Exercise and Nutritional Science allotment - FY26 (PRC0630)			
25	48000	Local Sources - Restricted		(20,000)
	51000	Regular Instructional Services	(20,000)	
	This amendment budgets funds for the Duke Energy Steam Grant - FY26 (PRC0650)			
26	48000	Local Sources - Restricted		(34,904)
	68000	System-Wide Pupil Support Services	(34,904)	
	This amendment budgets funds for the Local Records Requests Fees allotment - FY26 (PRC0700)			
27	44000	Local Sources - Restricted		19,489
	65000	Operational Support Services	500	
	71000	Community Services	18,989	
	This amendment adjust funds for the Community Use allotment - FY26 (PRC0704)			
28	48000	Local Sources - Restricted		144,784
	65000	Operational Support Services	144,784	
	This amendment adjust funds for the Activity Bus allotment - FY26 (PRC0706)			
29	48000	Local Sources - Restricted		(10,430)
	51000	Regular Instructional Services	(10,430)	
	This amendment budgets funds for the MircoFlim/Transcript allotment - FY26 (PRC0707)			

Restricted Grants Fund

#	Function	Description	Expense Increase (Decrease)	Revenue Increase (Decrease)
30	48000	Local Sources - Restricted		(34,086)
	65000	Operational Support Services	(34,086)	
	This amendment budgets funds for the Transportation Advertising allotment - FY26 (PRC0805)			
31	48000	Local Sources - Restricted		65,846
	65000	Operational Support Services	65,846	
	This amendment adjust funds for the Insurance Deductible allotment - FY26 (PRC0840)			
32	48000	Local Sources - Restricted		5,387
	65000	Operational Support Services	5,387	
	This amendment budgets funds for the Facilities-Fixed Asset Sales allotment - FY26 (PRC0881)			
33	48000	Revenue - State Public School Fund		8,884
	65000	Operational Support Services	8,884	
	This amendment adjust funds for the Sale Of Scrap Metal allotment - FY26 (PRC0883)			
34	48000	Revenue - State Public School Fund		(6,711)
	65000	Operational Support Services	(6,711)	
	This amendment budgets funds for the Duke Energy Solar Lease allotment - FY26 (PRC0884)			
35	48000	Revenue - State Public School Fund		(19)
	65000	Operational Support Services	(19)	
	This amendment budgets funds for the Facilities Remembrance Fund allotment - FY26 (PRC0885)			
36	48000	Revenue - State Public School Fund		2,914
	69000	Policy, Leadership and Communication/Public Information Services	2,914	
	This amendment budgets funds for the Print Shop allotment - FY26 (PRC0900)			
Total Restricted Grants Fund Amendments			334,821	334,821

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 2/16/2026

Agenda Item Title/Topic: Construction/Repair Change Orders

Type of Item: ☒ **Consent** ☒ **Action** ☐ **Information**

Main Points:

There were no construction and repair change orders that were submitted since the last Board meeting. Any change orders that were less than $100,000 were approved by the Superintendent or his designee in accordance with Board Policy 9030 – Facility Construction. Change orders greater than $100,000 must be approved by the Board.

Fiscal Implications:

All change orders were prefunded prior to recommendation for approval.

Recommendation:

Approval of the attached listing of construction/repair change orders.

Policy Implications:

Policy Code: 9030 Facility Construction

Strategic Goal Alignment:

Other: Policy or Gen Statute. See above.

Submitted by: Bessie Harvey, Assistant Superintendent of Operations

Department: Facilities

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 2/16/2026

Agenda Item Title/Topic: **Town of Dallas Right-of-Way**

Type of Item: ☒ **Consent** ☒ **Action** ☐ **Information**

Main Points:

On 8/15/22 Gaston County Schools (GCS) approved the right-of-way request from the Town of Dallas along the northern property line as defined in the provided Plat in exchange for construction of a new public road within the dedicated right of way, contingent upon legal review and an appropriate agreement with Town Dallas.

Gaston County Schools (GCS) is now prepared to proceed with construction of a roadway to access the aquatic center property that would also benefit the Carr Elementary School property. The roadway would be constructed by Gaston Aquatics and maintained by the Town of Dallas.

Fiscal Implications:

None

Recommendation:

Approval of the right-of-way request from the Town of Dallas along the northern property line as defined in the provided Plat in exchange for construction of a new public road within the dedicated right of way, contingent upon final legal review of an appropriate agreement with the Town of Dallas.

Policy Implications:

Board Policy 9400 - Sale, Disposal, and Lease of Board-Owned Real Property

Strategic Goal Alignment:

Goal 5. Every student has the opportunity to learn in a safe school environment.

Submitted by: Bessie Harvey,
Assistant Superintendent of Operations

Department: Operations

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA, GASTON COUNTY

I, JOHNNY H DONTON, CERTIFY THAT THIS PLAT WAS DRAWN UNDER MY SUPERVISION FROM AN ACTUAL SURVEY MADE UNDER MY SUPERVISION (DEED DESCRIPTION RECORDED IN BOOK 4297, PAGE 1965, BOOK 4584 PAGE 714, AND BOOK 4442, PAGE 793); THAT THE BOUNDARIES NOT SURVEYED ARE CLEARLY INDICATED AS DRAWN FROM INFORMATION FOUND IN BOOK ___, PAGE ___; THAT THE RATIO OF PRECISION AS CALCULATED IS 1:10000; THAT THIS PLAT WAS PREPARED IN ACCORDANCE WITH G.S. 47-30 AS AMENDED. WITNESS MY ORIGINAL SIGNATURE, REGISTRATION NUMBER AND SEAL THIS 1ST DAY OF DECEMBER, A.D., 2025.

SEAL

12/16/25

JOHNNY H DONTON
NCPLS L-3056
PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYOR

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF GASTON

I, _____, REVIEW OFFICER OF GASTON COUNTY, CERTIFY THAT THE MAP OR PLAT TO WHICH THIS CERTIFICATION IS AFFIXED MEETS ALL STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS FOR RECORDING.

REVIEW OFFICER _____ DATE _____

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR CERTIFICATION:
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE SUBDIVISION SHOWN HEREON, TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE, IS IN COMPLIANCE WITH ALL APPLICABLE PROVISIONS OF THE TOWN OF DALLAS ZONING ORDINANCE.

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR (OR DESIGNEE) _____ DATE _____

REGISTER OF DEEDS CERTIFICATE:
SUSAN K. LOCKRIDGE
REGISTER OF DEEDS
GASTON COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

NORTH CAROLINA
GASTON COUNTY

I, SUSAN K. LOCKRIDGE, REGISTER OF DEEDS IN AND FOR THE AFORESAID COUNTY AND STATE, HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE FOREGOING CERTIFICATE OF _____ IS DULY RECORDED IN BOOK _____ PAGE _____

WITNESS MY HAND AND SEAL OF OFFICE THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 20__

BY: _____
SUSAN K. LOCKRIDGE, REGISTER OF DEEDS / ASSISTANT REGISTER

NOTES:
1) THIS SURVEY WAS BASED ON PHYSICAL EVIDENCE FOUND IN THE FIELD ON THE DATE OF THE SURVEY UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED AND SHOWN.
2) THIS PROPERTY IS WITHIN ZONE X OF A FLOOD HAZARD AREA AS MAPPED.
3) THIS PROPERTY MAY BE SUBJECT TO RESTRICTIONS OR EASEMENTS NOT SHOWN (EXCEPT FOR EASEMENTS OF RECORD) OR NOTED HEREON.
4) THIS SURVEY COMPLIES WITH OBJECT THE BENEFIT OF A TITLE REPORT.
5) PROPERTY LIES WITHIN THE TOWN OF DALLAS CORPORATION.
6) THIS PROPERTY DOES NOT LIE WITHIN THE 100 YEAR FLOODPLAIN PER FEMA FLOOD INSURANCE MAP (FIRM) DATED EFFECTIVE DATE SEPTEMBER 28, 2007.

☐ 1) THAT THIS PLAT IS A PUBLIC SURVEY THAT DEDICATES A RIGHT-OF-WAY OR EASEMENT TO THE PUBLIC AND ACCEPTANCE OF THE DEDICATED RIGHT-OF-WAY OR EASEMENT IS SUBJECT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE SUBDIVISION ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF DALLAS.

☐ 2) THAT THIS PLAT IS A SURVEY THAT IS LOCATED WITHIN THE PURCHASE OF A COUNTY OR MUNICIPALITY THAT HAS NO PLANNING AND ZONING ORDINANCE, THAT WAS CREATED PRIOR TO THE ADOPTION OF THE ORDINANCE AS TO ANY SUBDIVISION OF LAND.

☒ 3) THAT THIS PLAT IS FOR A SURVEY OF AN EXISTING PARCEL OF LAND FOR PURPOSES OTHER THAN THE DEVELOPMENT OF URBAN OR SUBURBAN LAND.

☐ 4) THAT THIS PLAT IS A SURVEY OF A PARCEL OF LAND WHICH IS EXEMPTED AS REQUIRED BY GENERAL STATUTES 47-30(f) FOR RECORDING OF "MINOR SUBDIVISIONS".

☐ 5) THAT THE INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO THE SURVEYOR IS SUCH THAT I AM UNABLE TO MAKE A DETERMINATION TO THE BEST OF MY PROFESSIONAL ABILITY AS TO PROVISIONS CONTAINED IN PARAGRAPHS 1-4.

☐ 6) THAT THIS PLAT IS A SURVEY OF AN EXISTING PARCEL OF LAND LOCATED WITHIN A FLOOD HAZARD AREA AS DEFINED BY FIRM PANEL NO. ____ DATED ____.

Certificate of Ownership

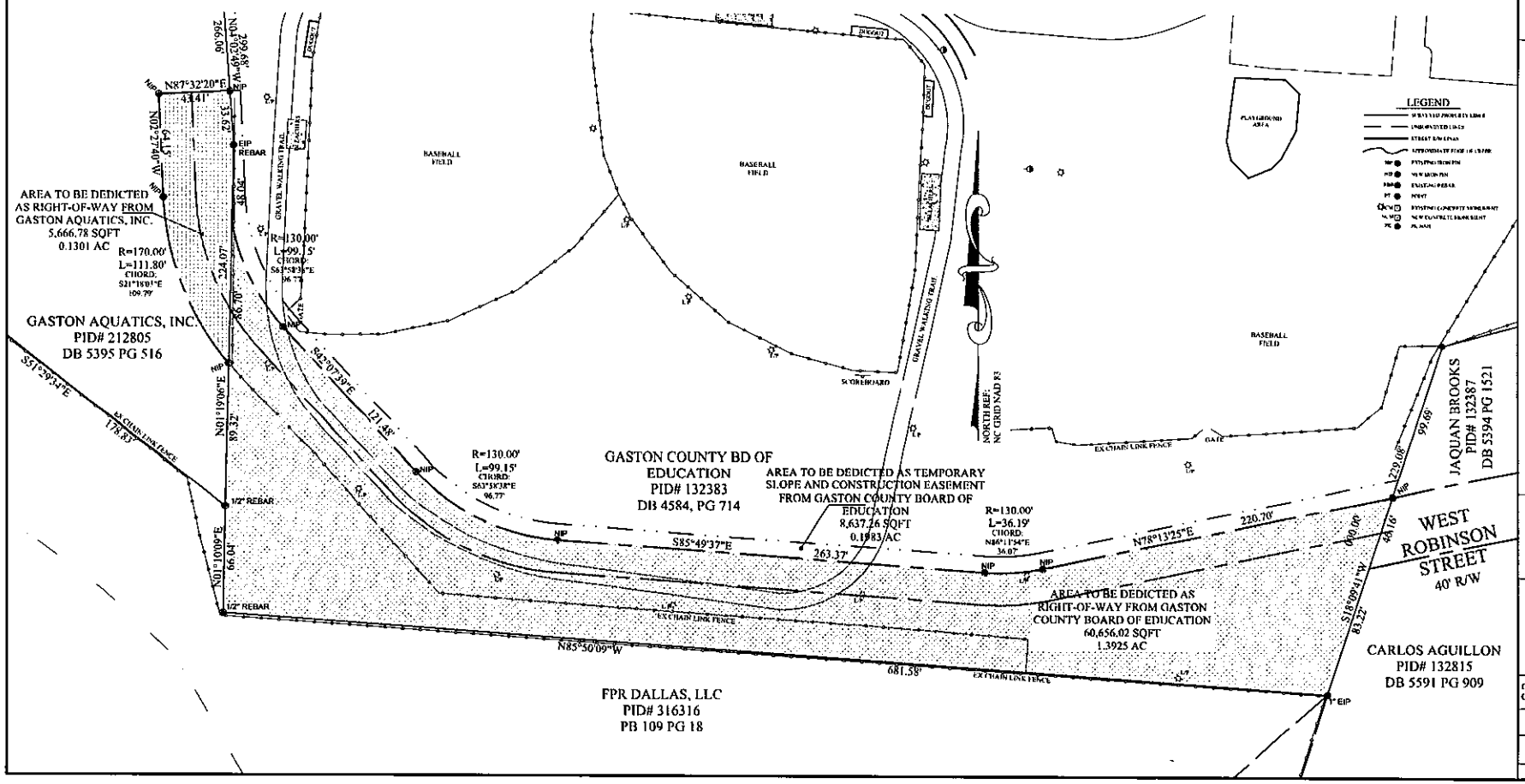
I (We) hereby certify that I am (We are) the owner(s) of the property shown and described hereon, which property is located within the jurisdiction of Dallas, NC. I hereby dedicate right-of-way as shown to the Town of Dallas as shown on this map as of this ____ day of _____, 20____

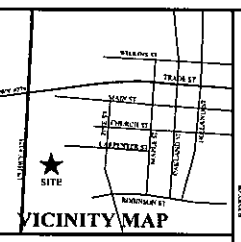
Property Owner Name (typed or printed): Gaston County Board of Education
Property Owner Signature

Certificate of Ownership:

I (We) hereby certify that I am (We are) the owner(s) of the property shown and described hereon, which property is located within the jurisdiction of Dallas, NC. I hereby dedicate right-of-way as shown to the Town of Dallas as shown on this map as of this ____ day of _____, 20____

Property Owner Name (typed or printed): Gaston Aquatics, INC.
Property Owner Signature





VICINITY MAP

NO SCALE

GRAPHIC SCALE

(IN FEET)
1 inch = 30 ft.

RETURN TO:
TOWN OF DALLAS
PLANNING DEPARTMENT
210 N. HOLLAND STREET
DALLAS, NC 28034

LEGEND

DEDICATION OF ROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY TO SERVE GASTON COUNTY PID# 212805 FOR THE PURPOSE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

TOWN OF DALLAS
210 N. HOLLAND STREET
DALLAS, NC 28034

DIAMOND ENGINEERING, PLLC
CIVIL ENGINEERING & SURVEYING
SITE & SUBDIVISION PLANNING
AND WATER AND SEWER
MUNICIPAL ENGINEERING

440 OLD HWY 277 LOOP RD.
DALLAS, N.C. 28034
PHONE: 704-922-0024

NC Licensure P-0263

Revisions:

Drawn By: JHD
Checked By: JHD

Scale: 1" = 40'
Date: 8-4-22

File # 22-0804

SHEET NO. 1

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 2/16/2026

Agenda Item Title/Topic: Chapel Grove - Easement

Type of Item: ☒ **Consent** ☒ **Action** ☐ **Information**

Main Points:

At the December 2025 meeting the Board approved a sanitary sewer easement along the edge of Chapel Grove Elementary. The request includes a 30-foot permanent easement and an additional 10-foot temporary easement on each side for construction purposes. Approval of the easement was contingent upon completing all required legal procedures for conveying governmental property to a private developer. Rather than convey the easement to the private developer, the City of Gastonia is now willing to accept the easement directly from Gaston County Schools.

Fiscal Implications: N/A

Recommendation:

Approve the attached permanent sanitary sewer easement with the City of Gastonia subject to compliance with legal procedural requirements.

Policy Implications:

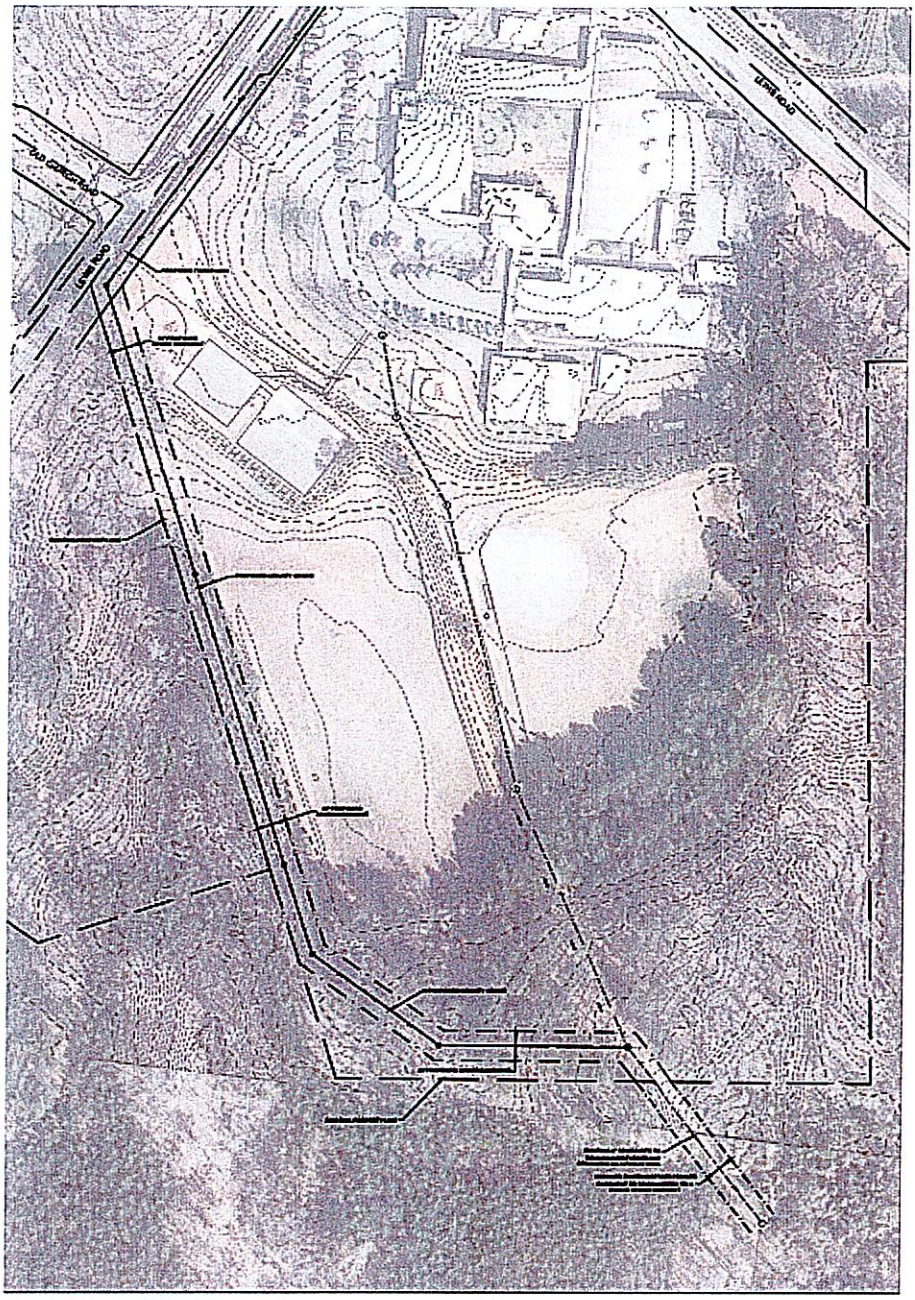
Board Policy 9400 - Sale, Disposal, and Lease of Board-Owned Real Property

Strategic Goal Alignment:

Goal 5. Every student has the opportunity to learn in a safe school environment.

Submitted by: Bessie Harvey,
Assistant Superintendent of Operations

Department: Operations



Offsite Sewer Extension

Arcadia Subdivision
January 16, 2025

TIMMONS GROUP

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 2/16/2026

Agenda Item Title/Topic: Board Policy Updates

Type of Item: ☒ **Consent** ☒ **Action** ☐ **Information**

Main Points: The Policy Committee members of the Board of Education reviewed the proposed updates. The Policy Committee members recommend these updates for approval by the full Board of Education. See Attached List for Policies.

Fiscal Implications: None

Recommendation: Board of Education approval of proposed policy updates.

Policy Implications: Board of Education Policies will be updated.

Strategic Goal Alignment:

Other: Policy or Gen Statute. See above.

Submitted by: Sonya C. McGraw, Attorney Department: Legal

PLS Updates

Board Meeting 2/16/2026 - Consent Agenda

GCS Policy #		Policy Title	Adopt	Revise
3101		DUAL ENROLLMENT		X
4030		STUDENT AND PARENT GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE		X
4172		CHILDREN OF MILITARY FAMILIES		X
4240		CHILD ABUSE AND RELATED THREATS TO CHILD SAFETY		X
4270		CONCUSSION AND HEAD INJURY		X
5150/7313		REPORTING TO EXTERNAL AGENCIES		X
6320		ORGANIZATION OF STUDENT TRANSPORTATION		X
7200		GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE FOR EMPLOYEES		X
7320		CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION		X
7810		RETIREMENT		X

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 2/16/2026

Agenda Item Title/Topic: Contracts and Expenditures >$100,000

Type of Item: ☒ **Consent** ☒ **Action** ☐ **Information**

Main Points:

The attached listing of contracts and expenditures more than $100,000 was reviewed by staff and recommended for approval by the Board, or are contracts less than $100,000 but recommended to the Board for approval.

Fiscal Implications:

All contracts and expenditures will be paid using bond funding, capital proceeds or operational savings.

Recommendation:

Approval of Contracts with the Board.

Policy Implications:

Policy Code: 8640 Contracts with the Board.

Strategic Goal Alignment:

Healthy, Safe, and Responsible Schools.

Submitted by: Gary F. Hoskins, CFO and Associate Superintendent

Department: Finance

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 2/16/2026

Agenda Item Title/Topic: Professional Design Services for Belmont Central Elementary School and New Hope Elementary School Additions and Renovations

Type of Item: ☒ **Consent** ☒ **Action** ☐ **Information**

Main Points:

This project continues the district's goal to address critical classroom capacity needs at identified schools. The architectural firm of McMillan Pazdan Smith has been selected to design and oversee the construction of these projects.

Fiscal Implications:

The cost of designing these additions and renovations is $2,100,00.00. School bond funding will be utilized for these projects.

Recommendation:

Approve the contract with McMillan Pazdan Smith for professional architectural and engineering services for the Belmont Central Elementary School and New Hope Elementary School additions and renovations projects.

Policy Implications:

None.

Strategic Goal Alignment:

Goal 5. Every student has the opportunity to learn in a safe school environment.

Submitted by: Bessie Harvey **Department:** Operations
Assistant Superintendent of Operations

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 2/16/2026

Agenda Item Title/Topic: Academic Services – Innovation Schools – UVA PLE Partnership – Year 2

Type of Item: ☒ **Consent** ☒ **Action** ☐ **Information**

Main Points: Academic Services is presenting Year 2 of the Innovation Schools partnership with the University of Virginia's Partnership for Leaders in Education (PLE), focused on strengthening district and school leadership to improve student outcomes. The Innovation Schools model is built on three core components: proven school leaders, Advanced Teacher Roles and instructional coaching, and high-quality professional development.

Ten Innovation Schools—Woodhill, Sherwood, Pleasant Ridge, HH Beam, Bessemer City Central, Lingerfeldt, Grier, Southwest, Hunter Huss, and Ashbrook—along with a cross-departmental district leadership team, participated in Year 1 of the partnership.

Year 2 completes the professional learning aligned to district and school improvement priorities. A key outcome of Year 1 was the implementation of Data-Driven Instruction, which has since been scaled districtwide and is contributing to improved student performance across Gaston County Schools. Year 2 is focused on the sustainable of student performance within the ten schools and creates a replicable model for the district moving forward to address the needs of the lowest performing school with GCS.

Why this matters: This work strengthens leadership capacity, ensures consistent instructional practices across schools, and accelerates academic growth by focusing resources and professional learning on strategies proven to improve student outcomes.

The Year 2 UVA PLE Partnership Summary:

Professional Development Engagement	When	Who	Cost
Summer Executive Education	June 2026 (3 days)	10 Innovation School Principals, 2 High School Assistant Principals and 10-member District Team	109,000 (includes housing, meals and training)
Principal Supervision Summit	November 2026 (2 days)	Associate Superintendent of Academics and 4 Executive Directors that supervise the Innovation Schools	15,000 (includes housing, meals and training)
Midyear Program	January 2027 (3 days)	10 Innovation School Leaders and 3 staff members, 10-member District Team	122,000 (includes housing, meals and training)
			Total: 246,000

Fiscal Implications: Total contract cost: $246,000
Funding source: 2026–2027 State Students at Risk funds

Funding for the Year 2 contract was allocated in the current budget to ensure continuity of the Innovation Schools professional development commitment.

Recommendation: Approve the Year 2 UVA PLE contract to continue supporting Innovation Schools and to advance a scalable, districtwide strategy for improving outcomes in schools with academic challenges.

Policy Implications: N/A

Strategic Plan Alignment:

- **Goal 1:** Increase the percentage of students performing on grade level
- **Goal 2:** Increase the number of schools that meet or exceed growth
- **Goal 3:** Decrease the number of low-performing schools

Submitted by: Tonya Kales,
Associate Superintendent of Academic Services

Department: Academic Services

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 2/16/2026

Agenda Item Title/Topic: Closed Session

Type of Item: ☐ **Consent** ☐ **Action** ☒ **Information**

Main Points:

Closed sessions shall be held when required to permit a public body to act in the public interest as permitted by law.

– N.C.G.S. §143-318.11(a)(6) Personnel

– N.C.G.S. §143-318.11(a)(3) Consultation with Attorney
In order to consult with the Board's attorney and protect the attorney client privilege, and to receive advice with respect to the lawsuits captioned:

—19-CVS-3893 McKinney et al. vs. Goins and The Gaston County Board of Education

—21-CVS-5018 Brittain vs. Beason and The Gaston County Board of Education

—3:23-CV-643-RJC-DCK Roger Perkins vs. The Gaston County Board of Education

—Any other legal matters.

Fiscal Implications:

TBD

Recommendation:

Board to consider information provided in Closed Session in accordance with G.S. §143-318.11.

Policy Implications:

Policy Code: 2610 Board Attorney

Strategic Goal Alignment:

Other: Policy or Gen Statute. See above.

Submitted by: Sonya McGraw, Attorney **Department:** Legal/Superintendent's Office