

Gaston County Schools
Board of Education
Monday, February 16th 2026
Regular Meeting

MINUTES

The Gaston County Board of Education met in a regular session on Monday, February 16th, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. in Central Office Boardroom at 943 Osceola Street, Gastonia, NC 28054 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 5:30 p.m. and welcomed everyone.

Invocation

Mr. Todd Terry, Pastor of Ridge Baptist Church, led the invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance

Haddaway Moore - 6th grade, Madelyn Hopper - 7th grade, Imirian Knox-Lowery - 8th grade, students of Southwest Middle School led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Character Trait

London Baker and Jaleal Keith, 3rd-grade students from HH Beam Elementary School reported on the Character Trait of Good Judgement.

Agenda Adoption - Action

The Board considered Agenda Adoption – Action

Motion to adopt the Agenda as presented was made by Mr. Lee Dedmon; seconded by Ms. Jeff Ramsey, motion carried unanimously. (8-0)

Good News – Information

Mr. Todd Hagans presented the Good News for February.

Academic WorldQuest

Teacher Jason Drummond and students Joseph Beam, Brayden Clemmer, Nixon Sipe, and Manas Suleimenova from the Highland School of Technology placed first among 25 high schools from across the region in the Academic WorldQuest competition, which was held in Charlotte.

The team competed in seven categories: World Flags, The Geography of India: Land, Water, and Borders, History: The Fall of the Berlin Wall and European Integration, Current Events, The Global Digital Battlefield: Cybersecurity, Disinformation, and Tech Diplomacy, Where in the World? Landmarks Around the Globe, and Anything and Everything Trivia.

Academic WorldQuest is the World Affairs Councils of America's flagship youth education program. It is a fast-paced team competition that tests students' knowledge of world politics, geography, economics, history, and cultures.

By placing first, Highland now advances to the national competition in Washington, D.C., in April. Please join me in congratulating our championship team in the Academic WorldQuest competition.

Mr. Tod Kinlaw presented each student with a certificate of recognition.

GRSEF & ISEF

Jillian Schultheis was recognized as placing first overall at the Gaston Regional Science and Engineering Fair. She later advanced to the UNC Charlotte Region VI Science and Engineering Fair, where she was selected as a finalist for the Regeneron International Science and Engineering Fair, also known as ISEF.

She will represent East Gaston High School, Gaston County Schools, and the state of North Carolina at the international science fair competition in Phoenix, Arizona, in May.

Jillian earned this distinction through original research examining how a biological control for invasive zebra mussels may affect native freshwater mussels. Using a lysosomal assay to detect cellular stress, her project explores how invasive species and ecosystem management strategies can affect freshwater environments. Her work reflects a strong interest in biology and earth sciences.

This is an amazing accomplishment for East Gaston High School, as Jillian is only the second student in school history to advance to ISEF, which is the world's largest international pre-college science competition. She will present her research alongside top student scientists from more than 60 countries, regions, and territories.

Mr. A.M. Stephens III presented Jillian Schultheis with a certificate of recognition.

CTE Presidential Scholarship Nominees

Rori McCorkle and Kent Kido, Career and Technical Education students who have been selected as our nominees for the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program in Career and Technical Education. This prestigious program honors students who excel in CTE and demonstrate strong leadership.

Rori McCorkle of Forestview High School. Rori has completed the health care professional pathway and earned multiple industry credentials, including CPR, Stop the Bleed, Prevent Blindness of North Carolina vision screening, and Nurse Aide I certification in North Carolina.

Kent Kido of Highland School of Technology. Kent is enrolled in the computer science pathway and has earned several industry credentials, including Adobe Illustrator, Adobe InDesign, Adobe Photoshop, CompTIA ITF+, Python PCEP, Python PCAP, and Cisco Certified Support Technician Networking.

Rori and Kent were commended for their hard work and for representing Career and Technical Education and Gaston County Schools so well.

Earlier today, it was announced that Kent has been chosen as a state-level winner in the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program for Career and Technical Education.

Mrs. Janna Smith presented a certificate of recognition to both students.

National School Counseling Week

Lead Counselors, Jordan Johnson, East Gaston High School, Jennifer MacDonald, Stuart W. Cramer High School (School Counselor of the Year), Shenice Bailey, Director of School Counseling, were honored as a part of the National School Counseling Week recognition.

School counselors are an important part of our schools as they are always ready to help students when they need it most. They support students in many ways, whether it's helping with schoolwork, offering advice, helping with course selection and college planning, emphasizing character education, or just being there to listen.

Their job is to make sure every student feels safe, heard, and supported. They help students not only with academics, but also with personal challenges that can affect their school life.

Further, our counselors create a positive environment where students can talk about their feelings and problems. They help students build confidence, learn how to cope with tough situations, and stay on track to reach their goals. Their work makes a big difference in the lives of students by helping them grow into strong, successful individuals.

We are so thankful for the hard work and care that our school counselors give every day. Their support helps students do their best, both in and out of the classroom. And, tonight, we are saying "thank you" to our counselors for everything they do to make our schools a better place for everyone.

Mr. Jeff Ramsey presented a plaque of recognition to the group.

Board of Education Recognition Month

Board Members were recognized individually as part of the "National School Board Recognition Month." Sincere appreciation was expressed to the members of the Gaston County Board of Education.

Each year, we take pride in recognizing and honoring the nine citizens who serve on the Board of Education. Our Board members are business professionals, community advocates, educators, and civic leaders who understand the importance of education and care about the children of Gaston County Schools and the future of our community.

Our Board of Education members epitomize service to others through their hard work, leadership, commitment, and expertise in guiding the public schools here in Gaston County. As a way to pay tribute to the Board of Education members and our Superintendent, we chose an elementary school and had a class at the school to "adopt" the Board member. This evening, representatives from the 10 schools are here to present a framed picture of the class to the Board member.

To honor Chairman Mr. Josh Crisp, who represents the Dallas Township, Harper Haywood, Alexander Low, and CT Messer, students in Renee Wright's fifth-grade class at Costner Elementary School, along with Principal Dr. Lorinda Brusie and teacher Renee Wright.

To recognize Vice Chairman Dot Cherry, who is an at-large Board member, Principal Dr. Jacob Barr, and first-grade teacher Hannah Sanchez from Sadler Elementary School.

Mr. Lee Dedmon, who represents the Gastonia Township, was honored next. From Chapel Grove Elementary, Peyton Lyerly, Reid Vogel, and Justice Sahms, students in Erin Fletcher's third-grade class, along with Principal Miriam Harvey and teacher Erin Fletcher, honored Mr. Dedmon.

With a presentation to Tod Kinlaw, who represents the South Point Township, are students Emma Foster, Sydney Scott, Owen and Lucas Griffin, Canaan Simmons, and David De Leon from Page Primary. They are in Jill Armato's first-grade class. Also present were Principal Dr. Bill Kessler and teacher Jill Armato.

To recognize Robbie Lovelace, who represents Cherryville Township, are Savannah Woods and Ali'yonna Hunter, students in Amanda Buchanan's fifth-grade class at W.B. Beam Intermediate. Also present were principal Lynn Whiteside and teacher Amanda Buchanan. Chairman Crisp accepted the plaque and gift from W.B. Beam Intermediate on Mrs. Lovelace's behalf.

From Tryon Elementary, we have Jadon Vang, who is a student in Davon Marshall's fourth grade class honored Mr. Brent Moore, who represents the Crowders Mountain Township. Also present was Principal Melissa Knick and teacher Davon Marshall.

Arianna Feemster from Pleasant Ridge Elementary recognized Jeff Ramsey, who is an at-large member. Arianna is a student in Clarissa Sanders' fourth grade class. With them were Principal Shawn Hubers and teacher Clarissa Sanders.

From Chapel Grove Elementary, Peyton Lyerly, Reid Vogel, and Justice Sahms, students in Erin Fletcher's third-grade class adopted Mrs. Janna Smith who represents the Gastonia Township

To recognize A.M. Stephens, who represents the Riverbend Township, students Maggie Hooks and Henry Rust, students in Dolly Williams' third grade class at Rankin Elementary School presented a gift of appreciation. With them were Principal Natalie LaRusch and third grade teacher Dolly Williams.

And, to honor Superintendent Houchard, Gabe Tull and Madison Hunter, students in Chassidy Maiers' third grade class at Brookside Elementary School expressed their appreciation. With them are principal Sierra Jennings and teacher Chassidy Maiers.

Career and Technical Education (CTE) Month Proclamation – Action

February is Career and Technical Education (CTE) Month and Mr. Todd Hagans recognized Dr. Rusty Parker, from our CTE Department. CTE helps students learn important academic, technical and job skills to prepare the, for their future careers. Students in our CTE programs take part in real-world, hands-on experiences that make learning more meaningful and exciting.

The Career and Technical Education (CTE) Month Proclamation was read:

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.

Chairman Josh Crisp presented a Recognition Plaque to the CTE staff, Dr. Rusty Parker, Beth Williams, Chassidy Stamey, and Diane Gibson

Motion

Motion was made by Ms. Dot Cherry, seconded by Mr. A.M. Stephens III, that the Board

Approve Career and Technical Education (CTE) Month Proclamation

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

(View Resolution)

Classroom Moment – Information

Dr. Shannon Hullett, along with David Grimes and Samatha Reichard, presented the Classroom Moment about the roles of a Beginning Teacher Support Facilitator.

(View Presentation)

Public Expression – Information

Sandra (Sandy) Larson
3603 Furman Circle
Gastonia, NC 28056

Re: The implementation of LifeWise Academy in Gaston County

Gabriel Pdlayo
307 N.. Oakland Street
Dallas, NC 28034

Re: Students attending classes in pajamas.

Approval/Correction of Minutes – Action

Motion to adopt minutes of January 23, 2026, Regular Meeting and January 23, 2026, Board Retreat as presented was made by Ms. Dot Cherry; seconded by Mr. A.M. Stephens III, motion carried unanimously. (8-0)

Acceptance of the June 30, 2025, Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) – Action

Chairman Crisp recognized Mr. Gary Hoskins, who introduced Mr. Josh Puryear from Forvis Mazars. Mr. Puryear reviewed the June 30, 2025, Annual Comprehensive Financial Report. The Board members each received a copy of the ACFR.

Motion

Motion was made by Mr. A.M. Stephens III; seconded by Mr. Tod Kinlaw, that the Board

Approve the Acceptance of the June 30, 2025, Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR)

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

(View Presentation)

Gaston Early College Calendars 2026-2027 – Action

Chairman Crisp recognized Mr. Kevin Doran, who presented a PowerPoint on Gaston Early College Calendars 2026-2027.

Motion

Motion was made by Mr. Brent Moore; seconded by Mr. Tod Kinlaw, that the Board

Approve the Calendar as presented for the 2026-2027 school year.

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

(View Presentation)

Strategic Plan 2030 – Action

Superintendent Houchard presented the Strategic Plan 2030, which outlines Gaston County Schools' comprehensive plan that clearly defines our focus, informs and influences our decision-making, and

provides purposeful direction as we guide and lead the school system over the next five years. Board members were given a copy of the final draft of the strategic plan.

Motion

Motion was made by Ms. Dot Cherry; seconded by Mr. A.M. Stephens III, that the Board
Approve as presented the Strategic Plan for 2030

(View Presentation)

Consent Agenda – Action

The Board considered the Consent Agenda:

- A. Recommended Personnel
- B. Budget Amendments & Budget Transfers
- C. Construction/Repair Change Orders
- D. Town of Dallas Right-of-Way
- E. Chapel Grove Easement
- F. Policy Updates
- G. Contracts
 - Professional Design Services for Belmont Central Elementary School and New Hope Elementary School Additions and Renovations
 - Innovation Schools Year 2 UVA PLE Partnership

Motion

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

Superintendent's Comments

Superintendent Houchard thanked the Board of Education for helping navigate through the winter weather events. He also thanked Assistant Superintendent Bessie Harvey and her team for tirelessly working behind the scenes to make our schools safe and secure for students and employees. He expressed appreciation for the Gaston County partner agencies for supplying information to help with our decision making during inclement weather.

At this time, no school make-up days are required as a result of the recent winter weather events, due to the implementation of remote learning days and the additional instructional hours built into the school calendar.

Superintendent Houchard announced the deadline to submit an application for our 17 magnet schools and Academies is Friday, March 6 at 5:00 p.m. Applications and information on our School Choice Schools and open houses can be found online.

Pre-k registration is available now online, and Kindergarten registration will begin on March 23rd.

Superintendent Houchard reminded everyone that Thursday, March 12 is Parent Teacher-Conference Day and early dismissal. Friday, March 13 is an Optional Teacher Workday and no school for students.

Several events coming up are:

- All-County High School Band Concert will be on February 21st at 2 p.m. at Ashbrook High School.
- The Middle School Battle of the Books will take place on February 24th at 9 a.m. at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church.
- Our Roadmap to CTE Careers Event will take place on February 24th from 5:30-8:30 p.m. at Gaston College.
- Our High School Battle of the Books will take place on February 26th at 9 a.m. at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church.
- The Middle School Math Elite will be on February 27th at 9 a.m.

Superintendent thanked the Gaston County Education Foundation for sponsoring the "Are You Smarter Than a Gaston County Fifth Grader?" competition last Thursday. Belmont Central and its business partner, Belmont Eye, were the winners in the competition, proving they are the smartest in Gaston County. Proceeds from the "Are You Smarter" competition are used by the Education Foundation to support the Ron L. Ensley grants for teachers.

Closing Remarks

Chairman Crisp thanked the Board members and the community for their support of our schools.

Chairman Crisp wished Janna Smith a "Happy Birthday."

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 7:00 p.m.

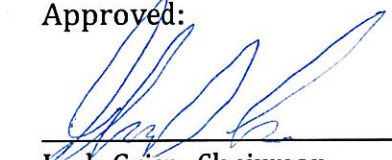
The Board returned to Open Session at 7:33 p.m.

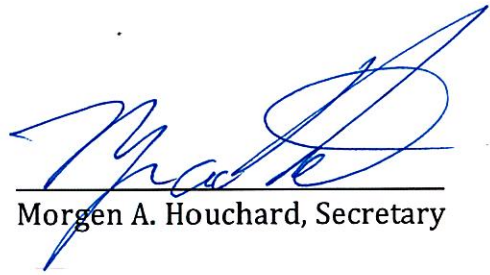
Adjournment

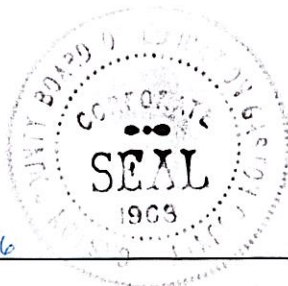
All business having been conducted, a Motion to adjourn was made by Mrs. Janna Smith, seconded by Mr. Jeff Ramsey, and the motion carried unanimously. (8-0)

The Board Meeting adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

Approved:


Josh Crisp, Chairman
[Corporate Seal]


Morgen A. Houchard, Secretary



Date Approved: 3-16-26

Board of Education Meeting

Monday, February 16, 2026





Character Trait - Good Judgement

Dr. Morgen A. Houchard, Superintendent

GASTON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
Josh Crisp – Chairman
Dot Cherry – Vice Chairman

Lee Dedmon, Gastonia Township
Tod Kinlaw, South Point Township
Robbie Lovelace, Cherryville Township
Brent Moore, Crowders Mountain Township



Jeff K. Ramsey, At Large
Janna Smith, Gastonia Township
A.M. Stephens, III, Riverbend Township

Dr. Morgen A. Houchard, Superintendent

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

- I. Call to Order
- II. Invocation
- III. Pledge of Allegiance
- IV. Character Trait - Good Judgement
- V. Agenda Adoption – Action
- VI. Good News – Information
- VII. School Board Recognition Month
- VIII. Career & Technical Education (CTE) Month Proclamation
- IX. Classroom Moment – Information
- X. Public Expression – Information
- XI. Approval/Correction of Minutes – Action
January 23, 2026 (Regular Meeting)
January 23, 2026 (Board Retreat)
- XII. Acceptance of the June 30, 2025, Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) – Action
- XIII. Gaston Early College Calendars 2026-2027 – Action

- XIV. Strategic Plan 2030 – Action
- XV. Consent Agenda – Action
Consent Agenda Item (s) will be adopted with a single motion, second vote, unless a request for removal from the Consent Agenda is heard from a Board Member.
 - A. Recommended Personnel
 - B. Budget Amendments & Budget Transfers
 - C. Construction/Repair Change Orders
 - None
 - D. Town of Dallas Right-of-Way
 - E. Chapel Grove Easement
 - F. Policy Updates
 - G. Contracts
 - Professional Design Services for Belmont Central Elementary School and New Hope Elementary School Additions and Renovations
 - Innovation Schools Year 2 UVA PLE Partnership
- XVI. Superintendent's Comments
- XVII. Closed Session – Information
 - N.C.G.S. §143-318.11(a)(3) Consultation with Attorney
 - N.C.G.S. §143-318.11(a)(6) Personnel
- XVIII. Adjournment



Good News

School Board Recognition Month

For helping shape
the future of
education in NC,
thank you!

#schoolboardmonth





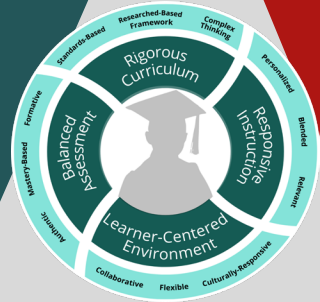


CELEBRATE TODAY,
OWN TOMORROW!

Career & Technical Education Month Proclamation

Classroom Moment

Dr. Shannon Hullett, Director of K-12 Curriculum





Classroom Moment

Beginning Teacher
Support Facilitator



Role of a Beginning Teacher Support Facilitator

Providing targeted coaching and guidance to first-year teachers to build instructional effectiveness, classroom management skills, and professional growth.

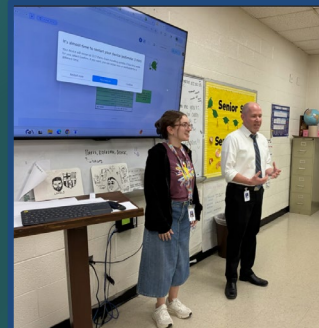
Planning and delivering district-level professional learning tailored to the unique needs of beginning teachers during required monthly meetings.



Coaching Targets

How to Be a Teacher

- ▶ Best Practices



Lesson Planning/Grade Level Learning

- ▶ Getting teachers to study and present their lessons prior to lesson delivery

Classroom Management

- ▶ Getting 100% of students following the teacher directions



Thank you!

Public Expression

Approval Correction of Minutes

Acceptance of the June 30, 2025 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR)

*Gary Hoskins, Associate Superintendent and
Chief Financial Officer*



Gaston County Schools
Audit Presentation for Year Ended June 30, 2025

February 16, 2026

Agenda

- Audit Opinion
- Required Communications to the Board
- Internal Controls and Compliance Audits
- Review of Financial Highlights

Audit Opinion

Audit Opinion

Opinions

We have audited the financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Board of Education of Gaston County Schools (“Board”), as of and for the year ended June 30, 2025, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Board’s basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Board, as of June 30, 2025, and the respective changes in financial position, and, where applicable, cash flows thereof, and the respective budgetary comparison for the General, Other Specific Revenue, State Public School and Federal Grants Funds for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Required Communications to the Board

Required Communications to the Board of Education

- **New accounting policies**
 - Adoption of GASB Statement No. 101 Compensated Absences
- **Accounting estimates**
 - Useful lives of depreciable assets
 - Proportionate share of net pension and OPEB liabilities
 - Estimates associated with accounting for subscription liabilities
- **Proposed and recorded adjustments proposed correcting entries**
 - Material corrections relate to cash reconciliations
- **Uncorrected misstatements**
 - None noted

Internal Controls and Compliance Audits

Report on Internal Control and Compliance with Laws and Regulations

Findings:

- 2025-001 – Reconciliation of Cash Accounts
- 2025-002 – Expenditures in Excess of Budget for General Fund, State Public School Fund, Other Specific Revenue Fund and School Food Service Fund
- 2025-003 – Deficit in Fund Balance for Other Specific Revenue Fund

Compliance Audit – Federal Major Programs

Federal Programs

- 10.553, 10.555, 10.559 – Child Nutrition Cluster

Results:

- Findings: None

Compliance Audit – State Major Programs

State Programs

- State Public School Fund
- Career and Technical Education – Program Support Funds

Results:

- Findings: None

Financial Highlights

Financial Highlights

	2025	2024	Change
Governmental Revenues			
State	\$ 242,815,140	\$ 228,708,421	\$ 14,106,719
Federal	21,884,861	48,474,292	(26,589,431)
County - operating	53,501,704	53,001,704	500,000
County - capital	42,134,954	45,104,107	(2,969,153)
Other	17,462,975	19,608,282	(2,145,307)
	<u>\$ 377,799,634</u>	<u>\$ 394,896,806</u>	<u>\$ (17,097,172)</u>
General Fund - Fund Balance			
Unassigned	<u>\$ 2,405,634</u>	<u>\$ 6,177,019</u>	<u>\$ (3,771,385)</u>
Cash			
Governmental funds	\$ 15,331,964	\$ 32,248,969	\$ (16,917,005)
Enterprise funds	4,589,699	6,451,541	(1,861,842)
	<u>\$ 19,921,663</u>	<u>\$ 38,700,510</u>	<u>\$ (18,778,847)</u>

Questions?



2026-2027 Early College Calendars

Early College Calendar Adoption

■ School Closed / Holiday	■ Mandated Teacher Workday	■ Optional Teacher Workday
■ Annual Leave	■ First and Last Day of School	■ College Supervision / College Break

Gaston Early College High School																	
2026-2027 DRAFT School Calendar																	
July 2026						August 2026						September 2026					
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F
				1	2	3					1		1	2	3	4	5
5	6	7	8	9	10	11		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30			
							30	31				15				20	
20 employee days						22 employee days						22 employee days					
October 2026						November 2026						December 2026					
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F
				1	2	3							1	2	3	4	5
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	
						20	29	30									14
22 employee days						21 employee days						23 employee days					
January 2027						February 2027						March 2027					
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F
					1	2							1	2	3	4	5
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30	31							
31						17											18
21 employee days						20 employee days						23 employee days					
April 2027						May 2027						June 2027					
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F
					1	2							1	2	3	4	5
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
25	26	27	28	29	30		23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30			
						19	30	31									
22 employee days						21 employee days											

- Resembles Gaston College Calendar
- Student days
 - 1st Semester 86
 - 2nd Semester 88
- 1,030 student hours
- 215 Employee days
- Graduation May 20th

2026-2027 Early College Calendars

Recommendation

Approval of the 2026 - 2027 calendar for the Gaston Early College High School and Gaston Early College of Medical Sciences



Gaston County Schools

Strategic Plan 2030

Presentation to the Board of Education

February 16, 2026

Dr. Morgen Houchard, Superintendent



What is a strategic plan?

It is a “road map” that will guide and direct the school system for the next five years.

Development of strategic plan

Eight-month time frame

Input and feedback from more than
2,000 stakeholders

More than 50 district-level, school-level,
and community meetings

What is included in the plan?

Vision

Mission

Core Values

Priorities and Goals

What is our vision?

To inspire success and
a lifetime of learning

What is our mission?

To provide innovative
educational opportunities
for all students in a safe and
nurturing learning environment

What is are our core values?

Excellence

Integrity

Community

Innovation

What are our priorities?

Academics that Build
Pathways to Student Success

Sustainable Financial
Stewardship

What are our priorities?

Efficient and Responsive
Operations and Technology

Comprehensive Student
Support

What are our priorities?

Talent and Workforce
Development

Effective Communication
and Partnerships

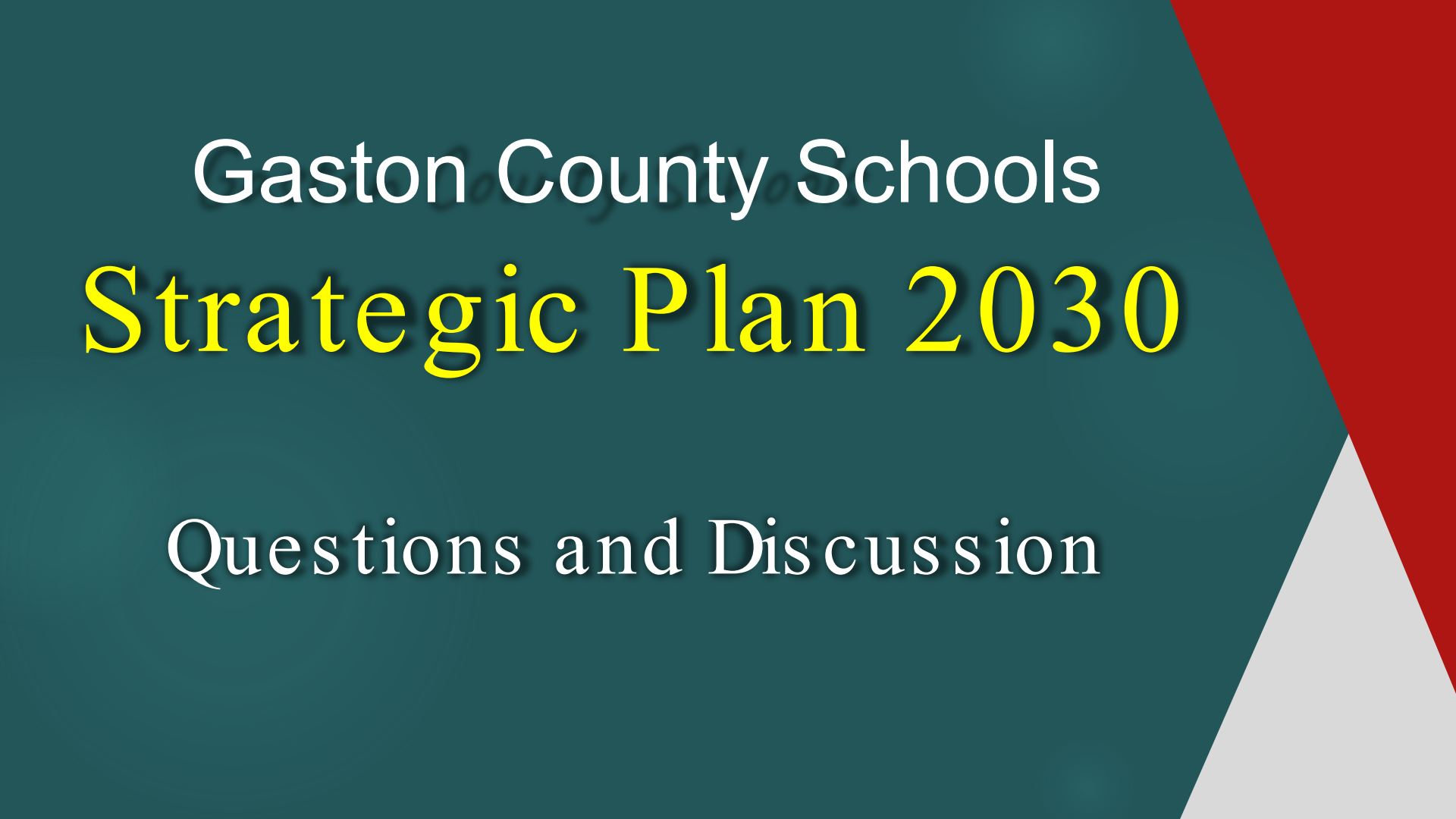
Our Strategic Plan

Gaston County Schools

Strategic Plan 2030



Inspire. Learn. Succeed.



Gaston County Schools Strategic Plan 2030

Questions and Discussion

Consent Agenda

Superintendent's Comments

Dr. Morgen A. Houchard, Superintendent

Board of Education Meeting

Monday, February 16, 2026

