

**Gaston County Schools
Policy Committee Meeting
Monday, September 14, 2026
3:00 p.m.
MINUTES**

The Gaston County Board of Education Policy Committee met on Monday, September 14, 2026, at 3:00 p.m. at the Central Office Board Room, 943 Osceola Street, Gastonia, NC. Members in attendance were Chair Dot Cherry, Janna Smith, and A.M. Stephens III.

Additional attendees included: Superintendent Houchard, Attorney Sonya McGraw, Associate Superintendent Tonya Kales, Assistant Superintendent of Operations Bessie Harvey, Assistant Superintendent of Student Support Services Rebekka Powers, Interim Chief Financial Officer Bryan Denton, Executive Director of Human Resources Beth Suber, Legal Department Administrative Assistant Sandra Whitmire, and Board Clerk Cindy Beck.

Ms. Dot Cherry called the meeting to order at 3:09 p.m. and welcomed everyone.

Agenda Adoption - Action

The Committee members considered the Agenda Adoption – Action

Motion to adopt the Agenda as presented was made by Mrs. Janna Smith; seconded by Mr. A.M. Stephens III; motion carried unanimously. (3-0)

Approval/Correction of Minutes

Motion to adopt the amended minutes of June 1, 2026, as presented, and August 3, 2026, as presented, was made by Mrs. Janna Smith, seconded by Mr. A.M. Stephens III; motion carried. (3-0)

Policy 4020: Parental Involvement - Action

After discussion, updates as presented with revisions will be recommended for approval by the full Board on September 21, 2026.

Motion

Motion to adopt the above Action item was made by Mr. A.M. Stephens III; seconded by Mrs. Janna Smith. Motion carried unanimously. (3-0)

Policy 3230/7370: Technology Responsible Use - Action

Following review, updates as presented will be recommended for approval by the full Board on September 21, 2026.

Motion

Motion to adopt the above Action item was made by Mrs. Janna Smith; seconded by Mr. A.M. Stephens III. Motion carried unanimously. (3-0)

Policy 7326: Video and Audio Recordings by Employees (New) – Action

Following review, updates as presented will be recommended for approval by the full Board on September 21, 2026.

Motion

Motion to adopt the above Action item was made by Mr. A.M. Stephens III; seconded by Mrs. Janna Smith. Motion carried unanimously. (3-0)

Motion

Motion to adopt the above Action item was made by Mrs. Janna Smith; seconded by Ms. Dot Cherry Motion carried unanimously. (3-0)

Policy 8545 Vendor Lists - Action

Upon review, the presented updates along with revisions will be submitted to the full Board on September 21, 2026, with a recommendation for approval.

Motion

Motion to adopt the above Action item was made by Ms. Dot Cherry; seconded by Mrs. Janna Smith. Motion carried unanimously. (3-0)

9115 Prequalification of Bidders for Construction Projects - Action

Upon review, the presented updates will be submitted to the full Board on September 21, 2026, with a recommendation for approval.

Motion

Motion to adopt the above Action item was made by Ms. Dot Cherry; seconded by Mrs. Janna Smith. Motion carried unanimously. (3-0)

Policy 9110 Bidding for Construction Work - Action**Motion**

Upon review, the presented updates will be submitted to the full Board on September 21, 2026, with a recommendation for approval.

Motion to adopt the above Action item was made by Mr. A.M. Stephens III; seconded by Mrs. Janna Smith. Motion carried unanimously. (3-0)

GCS 9120 Historically Underutilized Businesses (HUB) - Action

GCS 9120 Historically Underutilized Businesses (HUB) was recommended for Repeal.

Motion

Motion to adopt the above Action item was made by Mr. A.M. Stephens III; seconded by Mrs. Janna Smith. Motion carried unanimously. (3-0)

Other Business

The next Policy Committee Meeting will be on October 5, 2026, at 3:00 p.m. or immediately following the Curriculum and Instruction Committee meeting.

Adjournment

All business being conducted, a Motion to adjourn was made by Mr. A.M. Stephens III; and seconded by Mrs. Janna Smith; the motion carried. (3-0)

The Policy Committee adjourned at 4:41 p.m.

Approved:

Dot Cherry

Dot Cherry, Chairman

Date Approved: 10-4-24

Gaston County Board of Education

Policy Committee

September 14, 2026

BOE Policy Committee Agenda

Gaston County Schools Board of Education
Board Policy Committee Meeting
Committee Members: Dot Cherry (Chair), Jenna Smith, A.M. Stephens III
September 14, 2026, at 3:00 p.m.
Board Room, 943 Osceola Street, Gastonia, NC 28054

Agenda	Lead	Action
Call to order	Dot Cherry, Chair	
Agenda Adoption	Dot Cherry, Chair	Action
Approval/Correction of Minutes June 1, 2026 (Amended) August 3, 2026	Dot Cherry, Chair	Action
NCSBA PLS Policy Review: Spring 2026 Policy Updates: Policy 4020: Parental Involvement Policy 3230/3370 Technology: Responsible Use Policy 7325: Video and Audio Recordings by Employees Policy 3430 School Improvement Plan	Dot Cherry, Chair	Discussion (Potential recommendation to full Board for Approval at the September 21, 2026 Regular meeting)
Summer 2026 Policy Updates: Policy 3290: Selection of Instructional and Supplemental Materials Policy 3210: Inspection of and Objection to Instructional and Supplemental Materials Policy 3510 (GCS 3514): Religious-Based Exemptions from School Programs 3140/7112: Reporting to External Agencies 6402 (GCS 8620): Participation by Historically Underutilized Businesses		Discussion (Potential recommendation to full Board for Approval at the September 21, 2026 Regular meeting)

June 1, 2026
August 3, 2026

[illegible]

Policy 4020: Parental Involvement

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

Policy Code: 4020

The board recognizes the critical role of parents in the education of their children and in the schools. The board directs school administrators to develop programs that will promote and support parental involvement in student learning and achievement at school and at home and encourage successful programs toward graduation. Each parent is encouraged to learn about the educational program, the educational goals and objectives of the school system, and his or her own child's progress. The board also encourages parents to participate in their children's education and in activities designed by school personnel to involve them, such as parent conferences, in order to foster effective teacher and parent communication. Parents are responsible for cooperating with school employees to facilitate their children's compliance with board policies concerning homework, school attendance, and behavior.

For purposes of this policy, "parent" includes parents, legal guardians, and legal custodians of students who are under 18 years old and who have not been emancipated.

A. PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT PLANS

1. Parental Involvement Plan as Part of the School Improvement Plan

The board directs each principal to ensure that the school improvement team develops a plan for the school's parental involvement program as a part of the school improvement plan. The principal shall publicize details of the parental involvement plan prior to finalization and solicit input from parents of students at the school. This plan must include, as a minimum, efforts to enhance parental involvement by providing the following priorities:

- regular, meaningful, two-way communication between home and school;
- responsible parenting;
- involvement of parents in student learning;
- parental volunteering in the school;
- involvement of parents in school decisions that affect children and families;
- parental training based on parents' informational needs;
- collaboration with community agencies and other organizations to provide resources to strengthen school programs, families, and student learning; and
- student health awareness among parents by addressing the need for health programs and student health services, which are linked to student learning.

Policy: 3230/7370 Technology Responsible Use

TECHNOLOGY RESPONSIBLE USE

Policy Code: 3230/7370

The board provides its students and staff access to a variety of technological resources. These resources provide opportunities to enhance learning, appeal to different learning styles, improve communication within the school community and with the larger global community, and achieve the educational goals established by the board. Through the school system's technological resources, users can observe events as they occur around the world, interact with others on a variety of subjects, and acquire access to current and in-depth information.

The board intends that students and employees benefit from these resources while remaining within the bounds of safe, legal, and responsible use. Accordingly, the board establishes this policy to govern student and employee use of any technological resources owned, leased, maintained, or otherwise controlled by the school system. This policy applies regardless of whether such use occurs on or off school system property, and it applies to all school system technological resources, including but not limited to computer networks and connections, the resources, tools, and learning environments made available by or on the networks, and all devices that connect to those networks.

A. EXPECTATIONS FOR USE OF SCHOOL TECHNOLOGICAL RESOURCES

The use of school system technological resources, including access to the Internet, is expected to be exercised in an appropriate and responsible manner. Individual users of the school system's technological resources are responsible for their behavior and communication when using those resources. Responsible use of school system technological resources in use that is ethical, respectful, academically honest, and supportive of student learning. Each user has the responsibility to respect others in the school community and on the Internet. Users are expected to abide by the generally accepted rules of network etiquette.

General student and employee behavior standards, including those prescribed in applicable board policies, the Code of Student Conduct, and other regulations and school rules, apply to use of school technological resources, including access to the Internet.

In addition, anyone who uses school system computers or electronic devices, accesses the school's electronic storage or network, or connects to the Internet using school system-provided access must comply with the additional rules for responsible use listed in Section B, below. These rules are intended to clarify expectations for conduct but should not be construed as all-inclusive.

All students must be trained about appropriate online behavior as provided in policy 3220, Internet Safety.

B. RULES FOR USE OF SCHOOL TECHNOLOGICAL RESOURCES

1. School system technological resources are provided for school-related purposes only. Acceptable uses of such technological resources are limited to responsible,

Policy 7325: Video and Audio Recordings by Employees

VIDEO AND AUDIO RECORDINGS BY EMPLOYEES

Policy Code: 7325

The board authorizes employees to make video and/or audio recordings of students or other employees at school only in accordance with this policy. For purposes of this policy, the term employee includes all school system employees as well as independent contractors and volunteers. This policy applies to all video and/or audio recordings made by employees in school buildings, on school buses, at school-sponsored activities, or while otherwise acting in their capacity as a school system employee.

A. SECURITY CAMERA RECORDINGS

Security cameras that capture video, but not audio, may be installed on school system property to help maintain a safe learning and working environment. The principal or site supervisor shall identify specific locations for camera placement, subject to the approval of the superintendent or designee. Camera placement will be limited to common areas in buildings (e.g., lobbies, hallways, gymnasiums, and building entrances/exits), parking lots and other exterior areas, and school buses. Cameras may not be located in any areas where individuals have a reasonable expectation of privacy, such as restrooms, locker rooms, nurse's offices, or lecture rooms.

The superintendent or designee shall provide notification of the use of security cameras on school system property through student and employee handbooks, the school system website, or other means. The principal or site supervisor shall post a sign at the school entrance to a room and location that adequately notifies students, employees, and visitors that areas may be subject to video surveillance.

The superintendent or designee shall establish any procedures necessary for regulating the operation of security cameras and the secure storage, viewing, and destruction of resulting recordings.

B. PUBLIC EVENT RECORDINGS

Generally, employees may record events that are open to the public, such as athletic competitions, band and choral concerts, assemblies, presentations, and award ceremonies. If recording at an event is restricted for any reason, including due to security issues (e.g., a school play), the employees and all other members of the audience will be notified of the recording restrictions before the event begins.

The superintendent or designee shall establish procedures deemed necessary for the recording of official meetings of the board, board committees, or committees appointed by the board.

GASTON COUNTY SCHOOLS

Page 1 of 3

Policy 3430 School Improvement Plan

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Policy Code: 3430

A. PRINCIPLES

Principals, assistant principals, teachers, and other instructional staff at each school are responsible for designing and implementing strategies to reach the educational goals of the board. Input from the school community, including parents, students, and representatives from businesses and other agencies, is critical in developing an educational program that will meet the needs of the students and the community.

The board affirms the General Assembly's belief that all children can learn and that the mission of public schools is to challenge, with high expectations, each child to learn, achieve, and fulfill his or her potential.

Accordingly, the board has established in its policies its vision, standards, and measures of accountability for the educational program. The superintendent shall provide guidance and establish any other standards necessary for effective implementation of the board's policies. Principals shall lead each school in implementing the policies. The school improvement plan is one tool that school administrators should use to draw upon the creativity and innovation of the staff and the community. This plan should identify the school's efforts to improve student performance and reach the educational goals of the board.

B. DEVELOPMENT OF THE SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Each school must develop a school improvement plan that considers the goals set out in the mission statement for the public schools adopted by the State Board of Education ("State Board") and the annual performance goals for that school as established by the State Board under G.S. § 115C-105.15. In developing their school improvement plans, all schools should ensure, to the extent possible, that sufficient resources and curricula are devoted toward meeting the goal of having all students performing at grade level or higher in the basic subject and skill areas identified by the State Board, see [G.S. § 115C-105.15](#) and [G.S. § 115C-105.16](#).

1. School Improvement Team

Each school must have a school improvement team that develops the school improvement plan. The school improvement team must follow all legal requirements for developing and obtaining school approval of the school improvement plan. School improvement teams also must be familiar with state and local board requirements related to managing and using fiscal resources and must comply with these requirements in developing and implementing school improvement plans.

The school improvement team will consist of the principal, representatives of the

GASTON COUNTY SCHOOLS

Page 1 of 7

Summer 2026 Policy Updates

Summer 2026 Policy Updates				
Updated Policy	Policy Title	Description of Update	Legal Authority	Notes
3200	Selection of Instructional and Supplementary Materials	- Updates the title and language throughout the policy to align with new statutory language and requirements. (Required - see note) - Updates legal citations as (strongly recommended). - Updates cross-references. (Required) - Updates language. (Strongly recommended only)	S.L. 2025-01, sec. 7.4 G.S. 115C, art. 3, § 1	The 2025 Appropriations Act has eliminated the state Textbook Commission, replaced the term "textbook" with "instructional materials," and charged local boards with selecting materials, including and purchasing of instructional materials. The selection process provided in subsection A.1 may be modified.
3210	Retention of Instructional and Supplementary Materials	- Updates the title and language throughout the policy to align with new statutory language and requirements. (Required - see note) - Updates legal citations as (strongly recommended). - Updates cross-references. (Required) - Updates language. (Strongly recommended only)	S.L. 2025-01, sec. 7.4 G.S. 115C, art. 3, § 1	The process provided in subsection B.1.b is required by G.S. 115C-45.5. We recommend the board look with its board attorney at making modifications (for example, limiting how frequently a specific material may be challenged within a particular time period).
3210-3211	Retention of Instructional and Supplementary Materials	- Revises and revises the policy to include new statutory requirements regarding retention of instructional materials. (Required - see note) - Updates legal citations as (strongly recommended). - Updates cross-references. (Required) - Updates language. (Strongly recommended only)	S.L. 2025-01, sec. 7.4 G.S. 115C, art. 3, § 1	This policy item revised retention requirements to one hour per year. The board may require this up to four hours per year. The other retention described in subsection B.1 may remain and may be modified. Alternatively, the board may grant the authority to the superintendent or principal or school administrator as well as to the board of day or instructional materials along with a staff member. Any materials may be removed, applied to, or otherwise to all relevant instructional materials requests, and ensure that requests will not be treated differently based on the relevant efficiency of the materials.
3210-3211	Retention of Instructional and Supplementary Materials	- Adds references to direct instructional materials' retention requirements. (Recommended) - Revises Section 1. (Required - see note) - Updates cross-references. (Recommended)	G.S. 115C, art. 3, § 1 S.L. 2025-01, sec. 7.4	G.S. 115C, art. 3, § 1 requires public school to report to DPI the status of each of its instructional materials requests no later than July 1st each year and to report if a district has lost instructional materials to NC or another state. This policy reflects these

¹ Approval of action after 15 days is required for use to be addressed in policy or (2) the modification must be made as soon as the policy reflects updates that are subject to the retention of instructional materials.

² Strongly recommended means the provisions are required by law, but they do not have to be addressed in policy, although NCMA strongly recommends that the provisions be added to policy.

³ An asterisk means the provisions are not required by law, but NCMA strongly recommends that the provisions be added to policy.

1 of 2

Policy 3200 Selection of Instructional and Supplementary Materials

SELECTION OF INSTRUCTIONAL AND SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS

3200

In order to help fulfill the educational goals and objectives of the school system, the board shall select instructional materials that will enrich and support the curriculum and enhance student learning. Instructional materials should be representative of the rich diversity of our nation and appropriate for the maturity level and abilities of the students.

Instructional materials include all materials, whether print, non-print, digital, or any combination thereof, used in the instructional program. Instructional materials include all materials, whether print, non-print, digital, or any combination thereof, used in the instructional program.

A. SELECTION OF INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

Instructional materials are systematically organized materials comprehensive enough to cover the primary objectives outlined in the curriculum. Instructional materials include all materials, whether print, non-print, digital, or any combination thereof, used in the instructional program. Instructional materials include all materials, whether print, non-print, digital, or any combination thereof, used in the instructional program.

Instructional materials should be selected and purchased in accordance with the curriculum and the needs of the students. Instructional materials should be selected and purchased in accordance with the curriculum and the needs of the students.

1. Selection of Instructional Materials

Current instructional materials will be used in the program, except to the extent that the board or the superintendent determines that the instructional materials are no longer appropriate or the board determines that it is necessary to purchase new instructional materials.

If instructional materials are no longer appropriate or the board determines that it is necessary to purchase new instructional materials, the board or the superintendent shall select and purchase new instructional materials in accordance with the curriculum and the needs of the students.

Policy 3210 Inspection of and Objection to Instructional and Supplementary Materials

PARENTAL INSPECTION OF AND OBJECTION TO INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS AND SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS Policy Code: 3210

This policy is intended to ensure that instructional and supplementary materials used in the classroom are appropriate for the students and do not contain any inappropriate content. The purpose of this policy is to provide parents with the opportunity to review and, if necessary, object to instructional and supplementary materials used in the classroom.

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For purposes of this policy, all references to "parent" include a parent, legal guardian, legal custodian, or other caregiver who is authorized to enroll a student under policy 4120, District of Residence Requirements.

A. PARENTAL RIGHT TO INSPECT MATERIALS

Parents may review all instructional and supplementary materials used in the classroom. Parents who would like to inspect and review instructional and supplementary materials should make a request in writing to the principal identifying the instructional materials the parent is seeking to inspect. Within 10 business days of receiving the request, the principal shall either (1) provide access to the requested materials or (2) provide an explanation to the parent that, due to the volume or complexity of the request, access to the materials will be provided no later than 20 business days from the date of the parent's request. Access will be provided by supplying the parent with a copy of the materials or by scheduling a mutually agreeable date and time for the parent to come into the school to review the materials. All materials used in the classroom shall be available for review as provided in policy 4120, District of Residence Requirements.

B. PARENTAL OBJECTION TO MATERIALS

Parents may object to instructional and supplementary materials used in the classroom. A parent who objects to instructional and supplementary materials used in the classroom shall provide a written explanation of the objection to the principal. The principal shall review the objection and, if necessary, take appropriate action to remove the materials from the classroom. The principal shall also notify the parent of the action taken and the reasons for the action.

Policy 3510(GCS 3515) Religious-Based Exemptions from School Programs

RELIGIOUS-BASED EXEMPTIONS FROM SCHOOL PROGRAMS Policy Code: 3515

This policy is intended to ensure that students who are members of a religious organization are not discriminated against in school programs. The purpose of this policy is to provide students with the opportunity to request an exemption from school programs based on their religious beliefs.

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A. RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS TO CLASSROOM DISCUSSIONS, ACTIVITIES, OR ASSIGNMENTS

The curriculum of the school system will be based on the current state instructional standards. The board, school administrators, and teachers will exercise their authority to select appropriate materials and to teach the curriculum in an effective manner. The curriculum will be based on the current state instructional standards. The board, school administrators, and teachers will exercise their authority to select appropriate materials and to teach the curriculum in an effective manner.

The curriculum of the school system will be based on the current state instructional standards. The board, school administrators, and teachers will exercise their authority to select appropriate materials and to teach the curriculum in an effective manner. The curriculum will be based on the current state instructional standards. The board, school administrators, and teachers will exercise their authority to select appropriate materials and to teach the curriculum in an effective manner.

A student, parent, or guardian may petition to exempt the student from participation in a specific classroom discussion, activity, or assigned reading that the student, parent, or guardian believes would impose a substantial burden on the student's religious beliefs or violate the student's privacy by calling attention to the student's religious beliefs. Any request for exemption should be submitted to the superintendent or designee in accordance with the following guidelines:

1. The request must be in writing.
2. The request must specify the discussion, activity, or reading and explain how it would impose a substantial burden on the student's religious beliefs or violate the student's privacy by calling attention to the student's religious beliefs.
3. The request must suggest a proposed alternate activity or study.

The superintendent or designee shall review the request in accordance with any constitutional or statutory standards and shall accommodate the request as required by law. If accommodation is not required by law, the superintendent or designee may, at their discretion, deny the request after weighing factors such as the interest of the child, the impact on other students, and the availability of alternative activities or materials. An appeal of the decision may be made through the student grievance procedure.

5150/7313 Reporting to External Agencies

REPORTING TO EXTERNAL AGENCIES Policy Code: 5150

The policies listed below require the superintendent or other school system employees to report certain information to various external governmental agencies and officials. This list is not exhaustive of all external reporting requirements. In addition to the reporting requirements described in this policy, the superintendent or designee shall make any other reports to external governmental agencies or officials when required by law or regulation or when required as a condition of a federal grant or award (see policy 8645, Federal Grant Administration).

A. THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION/DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

1. Reporting Obligations of the Superintendent

The superintendent must ensure that all required data, reports, and other information are submitted to the State Board of Education (SBE)/Department of Public Instruction, including, but not limited to, the following:

- that a licensed individual has been found through a criminal records check to have a criminal history (see policy 7100, Recruitment and Selection of Personnel);
- the reason for the resignation of certain licensed employees if the employee's criminal history is relevant to the resignation (see policy 7800, Resignation);
- that certain licensed employees, who have been recommended for dismissal, have resigned without the superintendent's written consent (see policy 7900, Resignation);
- ~~the status of each active education employee (see policy 7300, Staff Requirements);~~
- ~~that a current education employee has had the criminal history in North Carolina or any other state (see policy 7340, Staff Review and History);~~
- parental involvement information as required by SBE Policy FRST-002 and G.S. 115C-76.70 (see policy 4020, Parental Involvement);
- certain crimes occurring on school property or on school sponsored field trips as required by 16 N.C.A.C. 08.0107 (see policy 4315, Criminal Behavior);
- if at least two violent criminal offenses and at least five or more such offenses per 100 students were committed during each of the two most recent school years, any conditions in the school that may have contributed to the commission of the violent criminal offenses and any plans to

6402 (GCS 8620) Participation by Historically Underutilized Businesses

PARTICIPATION BY HISTORICALLY UNDERUTILIZED BUSINESSES Policy Code: 8620

The Board affirms the State's commitment to encourage participation of historically underutilized businesses in the school district's purchase of goods and services. The Board of Education prohibits discrimination against any person or business on the basis of race, color, ethnic origin, sex, disability or religion.

The Superintendent shall establish guidelines to ensure that the school district will make good faith efforts to reach diverse suppliers of goods and services and to encourage participation in the school district's purchasing process by such suppliers.

Please refer to the Gaston County Schools Bid Proposal Form Documents for Historically Underutilized Businesses (HUBs).

Adopted 07/16/21

6420 (GCS 8640) Contracts with the Board

CONTRACTS WITH THE BOARD

Policy Code: 8640

The board is the sole entity authorized to execute formal contracts between the school system and any firm or person offering to provide materials, equipment, or services to the school system. Creditors are on notice that the board may choose not to honor contracts entered into by school or school system officials without authority to enter into contracts.

A. AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO CONTRACTS

No contract requiring the expenditure of funds may be entered into unless the budget resolution adopted pursuant to policy 8110, Budget Resolution, indicates the expense and there is a sufficient unencumbered balance to pay the amount to be disbursed. (See policy 6221, Personnel and Disbursement Considerations.) No contract may be entered into with a restricted company, as listed by the state treasurer in accordance with G.S. 147, art. 62, or 66, except as permitted by these laws.

Any contract for materials, equipment, or services involving expenditures in excess of \$100,000.00 must be reviewed by the board attorney and approved in advance by the board unless provided otherwise in board policy. (Approval requirements for construction and repair contracts are established in policy 8110, Bidding for Construction Work.) The total value of a contract or contracts that are to be awarded to one or more board-approved vendors shall not exceed the amount of the approved budget for that category of expenditures.

Unless otherwise prohibited by statute or regulation, the superintendent or designee is authorized to enter into contracts or approve amendments to contracts for materials, equipment, supplies, or services involving amounts up to \$100,000.00. Change orders for construction and repair contracts are subject to the requirements of policy 8110, Bidding for Construction, and this provision.

To provide greater flexibility at the school level, the superintendent also may establish circumstances in which principals may enter contracts involving amounts up to \$10,000.00.

The superintendent with appropriate involvement of the finance officer, shall establish any procedures necessary to ensure fiscal accountability and reporting by principals who enter into contracts.

B. CONTRACT FORMS

The board attorney shall review any contract forms developed for use by a school or the school system.

C. LEASE PURCHASE CONTRACTS

The finance officer must approve any request to enter lease purchase contracts as authorized by G.S. 115C-529, regardless of the dollar amount. After considering the principal and amount of interest, the superintendent must determine that the lease purchase is a fiscally prudent choice that is consistent with board policy.

GASTON COUNTY SCHOOLS

Page 1 of 2

6442 (GCS 8545) Vendor Lists

VENDOR LISTS

Policy Code: 8545

The board desires to provide opportunities to responsible suppliers to do business with the school system. To this end, the superintendent is directed to develop and maintain lists of potential vendors for the various types of materials, equipment, and supplies. Such lists will be used in the development of a mailing list for distribution of specifications, invitations to bid, and notice of other competitive purchasing processes.

The superintendent or designee has the discretion to determine which vendors are included on the list and may establish minimum qualifications standards for being placed on the list or for remaining on the list. The standards shall take into account the requirements of G.S. 147, art. 64, and art. 66. The superintendent is encouraged to include small business vendors, minority-owned vendors, North Carolina Small Business Enterprise (NCSBE) vendors, and business enterprises that are located in the State Department of Transportation (NCDOT) service area.

Legal References: G.S. 115C-522, 147 art. 64, art. 66

Adopted: 12/18/2017

DRAFT

GASTON COUNTY SCHOOLS

Page 1 of 1

9115 Prequalification of Bidders for Construction Projects

PREQUALIFICATION OF BIDDERS FOR CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

Policy Code 9115

A. GENERAL

1. The purpose of this prequalification process is to impartially evaluate a contractor, and to properly determine by its responsible business practices, work experience, resources, and equipment that it is qualified to bid on a board construction project, including prime contracts awarded by construction managers pursuant to the Construction Manager at Risk ("CM at Risk") process. The award of contracts should be the result of open competition in bidding; impartiality in the selection of contractors; integrity in business practices; and skilled performance of public contracts.
2. The administration shall be responsible for prequalifying individual contractors to bid on board construction projects when the administration believes prequalification is preferred. The administration is not required to prequalify contractors for any particular project or projects. However, a contractor shall not be allowed to submit a bid on a construction project subject to prequalification, unless it has been prequalified in accordance with board policy.
3. The construction manager and the administration shall jointly develop the assessment tool and criteria for each CM at Risk project, including the prequalification scoring values and minimum requirements score. The construction manager shall use the process outlined in this policy for the prequalification of contractors on CM at Risk projects.
4. Notwithstanding the fact that a contractor was prequalified, the board, administration, and construction manager reserve the right to reject a contractor's bid if it is determined that the contractor has not submitted the lowest responsible and responsive bid. The prequalification of the contractor shall not preclude the board, administration, or construction manager from subsequently concluding that the contractor is not a responsible bidder pursuant to G.S. 143-129. The prequalification of a contractor for a project shall only apply to the individual project. All construction and repair contracts shall be awarded to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder, taking into consideration quality, performance, and the time specified in the proposal for the performance of the contract.

B. APPLICABLE POLICIES

1. The superintendent or designer shall designate a school official to oversee the prequalification process for each individual project ("School Prequalification Official").

GASTON COUNTY SCHOOLS

Page 1 of 2

9120 (GCS 9110) Bidding for Construction Work

BIDDING FOR CONSTRUCTION WORK

Policy Code 9110

The board strives to obtain high quality services at a reasonable price through the bidding process employed by the school system. This policy describes state and local requirements. Any contracts funded with federal funds must also be made in accordance with the terms and conditions of the federal award and all applicable requirements of federal law and regulation, including the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards ("Uniform Guidance") issued by the U.S. Office of Budget and Management. (See also policy 9105, Federal Grant Administration.)

A. STANDARDS FOR PARTICIPATION IN CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS

All contracts formally or informally bid will be awarded to the lowest responsible bidder, taking into consideration quality, performance, reliability, and the time specified in the bids for performance of the contract. Contractors will contain a provision stating that the contractor and contractor's subcontractors, if any, must comply with the requirements of G.S. Chapter 64, Article 2. Prior to bidding, contractors may be required to prequalify if the board has elected to use this process. No contract may be entered into with a restricted company, as listed by the state treasurer in accordance with G.S. 145, art. 6C or 6D, except as permitted by those laws.

The board prohibits discrimination against any person or business on the basis of race, color, ethnic origin, sex, disability, or religion. In addition, in accordance with G.S. 141-113.5, the board prohibits discrimination against a bidder or contractor for being party to, refusing to be party to, submitting to, or refusing to adhere to an agreement with a labor organization. The superintendent is required to ensure contracting and purchasing processes so as to prevent such discrimination.

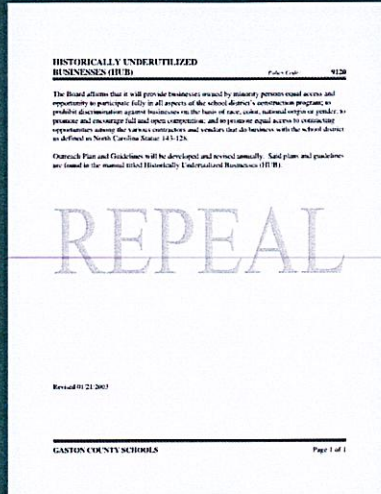
The superintendent, on behalf of the board, must certify that equal effort has been made to ensure the participation of construction contracts by minority-owned and female-owned businesses, as required by policy 9104, Participation by Minority Businesses.

The board will grant a North Carolina resident firm providing architectural, engineering, surveying, construction management, social services, design-build services, or public-private construction services a preference over a nonresident firm, if the home state of the nonresident firm has a practice of granting a preference to its resident firms over North Carolina resident firms. Any preference granted to a resident firm will be in the same manner, on the same basis, and to the same extent as the preference granted by the nonresident firm's home state. The school system's bid documents will require that nonresident firms disclose and describe any construction contract preferences granted by the firm's home state.

GASTON COUNTY SCHOOLS

Page 1 of 3

GCS 9120 Historically Underutilized Businesses (HUB)



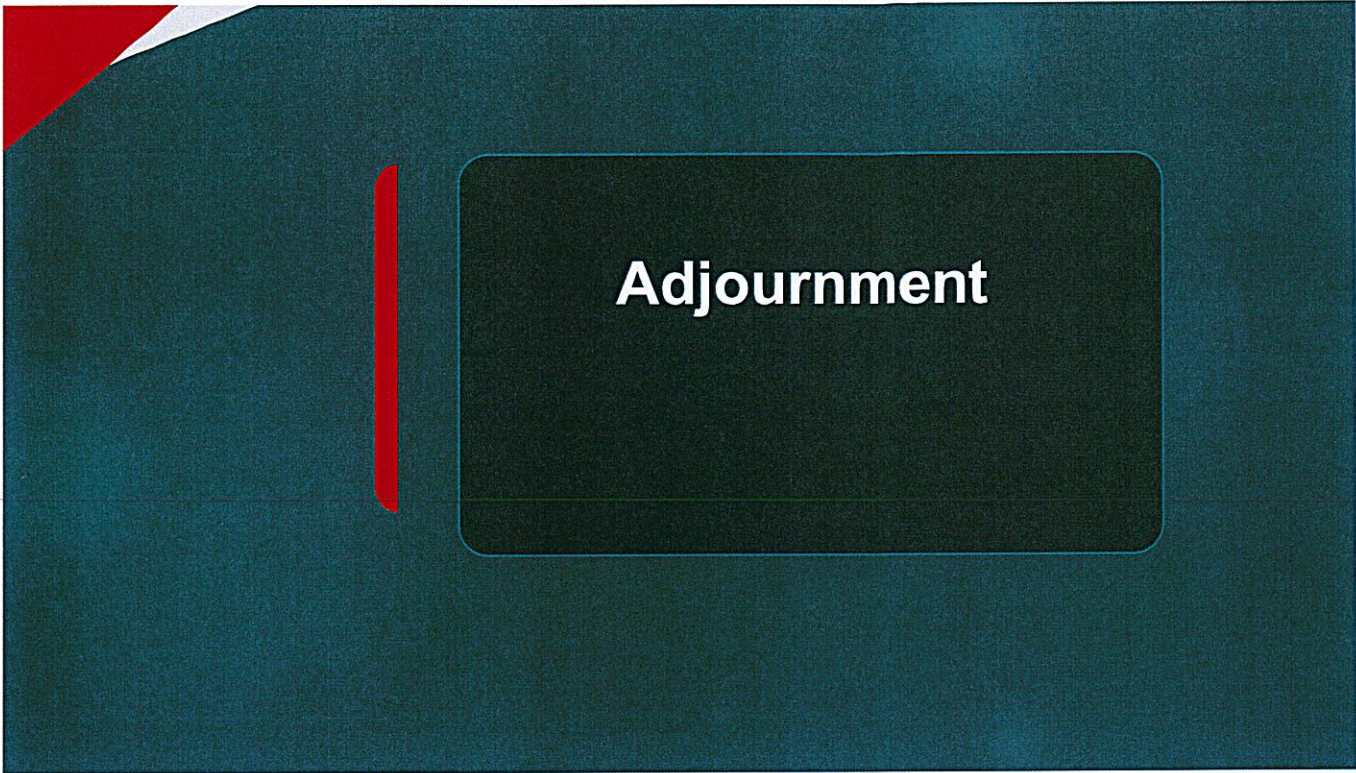
Other Business



Next Committee Meeting

**BOE Policy
Committee**

October 5, 2026



Adjournment