

GASTON COUNTY
BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR SESSION



Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 4/15/2024

Agenda Item Title/Topic: Agenda Adoption

Type of Item: Consent Action Information

Main Points:

Consideration of Formal Agenda for Monday, April 15, 2024.

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

Financial Implications:

None

Recommendation:

Adoption of Agenda

Policy Implications:

None

Strategic Goal Alignment:

GASTON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

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Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 4/15/2024

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.

None

Recommendation:

None

Policy Implications:

None

Strategic Goal Alignment:

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

Submitted by: Todd Higgins, Chief Communications Officer

BOARD AGENDA INFORMATIONAL ITEM

DEPARTMENT: Communications/Public

TOPIC: GOOD NEWS

FOR THE MONTH OF: April 2024

1. Fourteen students from **Gaston County Schools** were selected to attend the 2024 session of the prestigious North Carolina Governor's School. Students attending Governor's School East at Meredith College are **Melanie Hernandez Martinez, Hunter Huss High School; Carter Johnson, East Gaston High School; Caiden McDaniel, Forestview High School; Jake Thomas, McQueen South Point High School; LeAnna Moore, East**

are Linda Anderson, Bessemer City Primary; McKenzie Barkley, W.A. Bess

14. The **Belmont Middle School** advanced chorus participated in the N.C. Music Educators

Music Performance Festival and received excellent and enthusiastic

27. The **North Gaston High School** yearbook was recognized for excellence and featured in the Jostens Look Book 2024, which celebrates the best-of-the-best in yearbook design and inclusivity.

28. Second grade students at **Sherwood Elementary** presented a wax museum of historical figures to parents, students, and staff.

29 **Sherwood Elementary** kicked off its "One Book One School" family involvement

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 4/15/2024

Agenda Item Title: [REDACTED]

Agenda Item Description: [REDACTED]

Type of Item: Consent Action Information

Main Points:

To recognize Teacher Appreciation Week in Gaston County Schools (May 6-10, 2024), a proclamation is presented to the Board of Education for consideration and approval.

See the attachment for the proclamation.

Fiscal Implications:

None

Recommendation:

Agenda Item

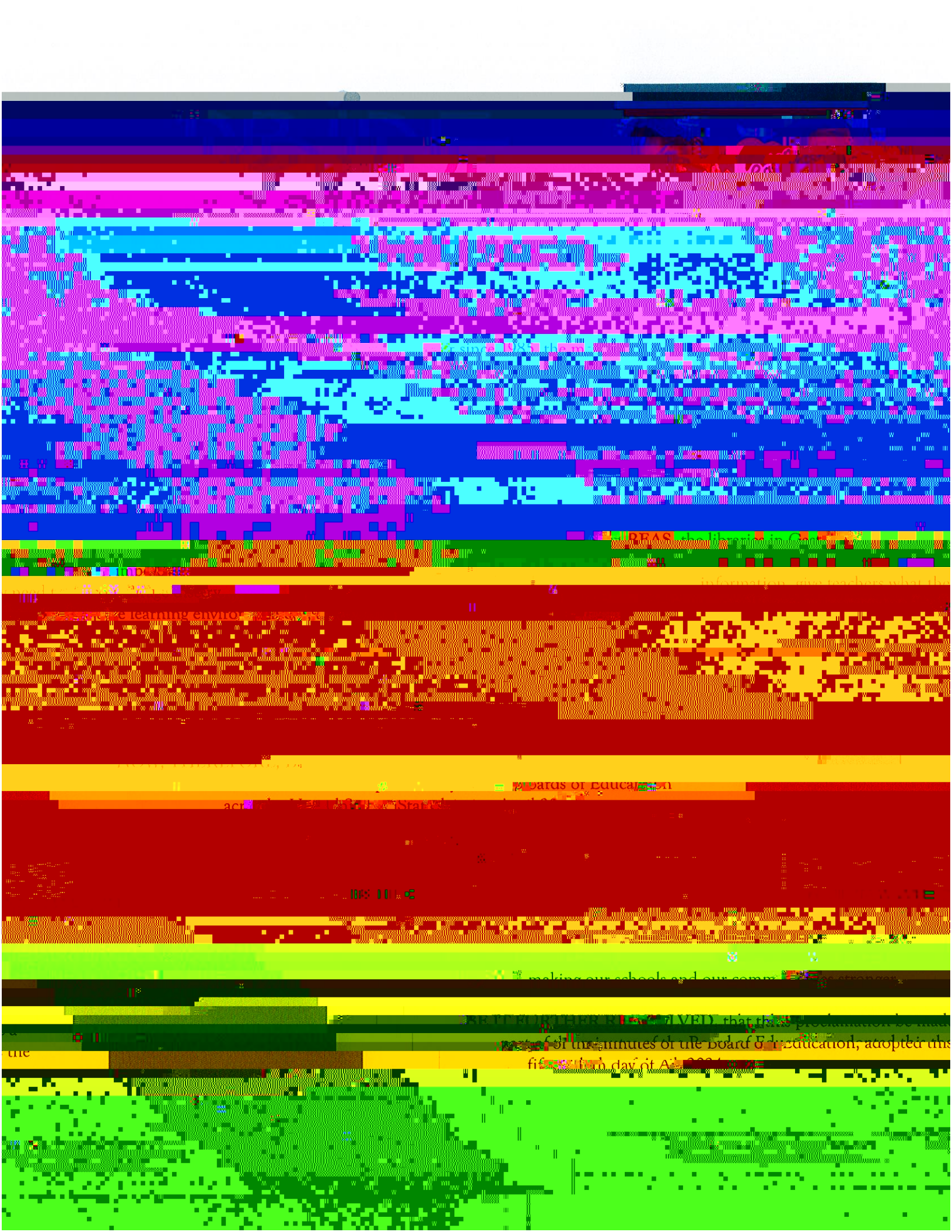
Meeting Date: 4/15/2024

Agenda Item Title/Topic: National School Library Month Proclamation

Type of Item: Consent Action Information

Main Points:

[Redacted content]



Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 04/15/2024

Agenda Item Title: [REDACTED]

Type of Item: Consent Action Information

Main Points:

CCS students enjoy participating in various academic competitions. School level coaches

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 4/15/2024

Agenda Item Title/Topic: Public Expression

Type of Item: Consent Action Information

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.

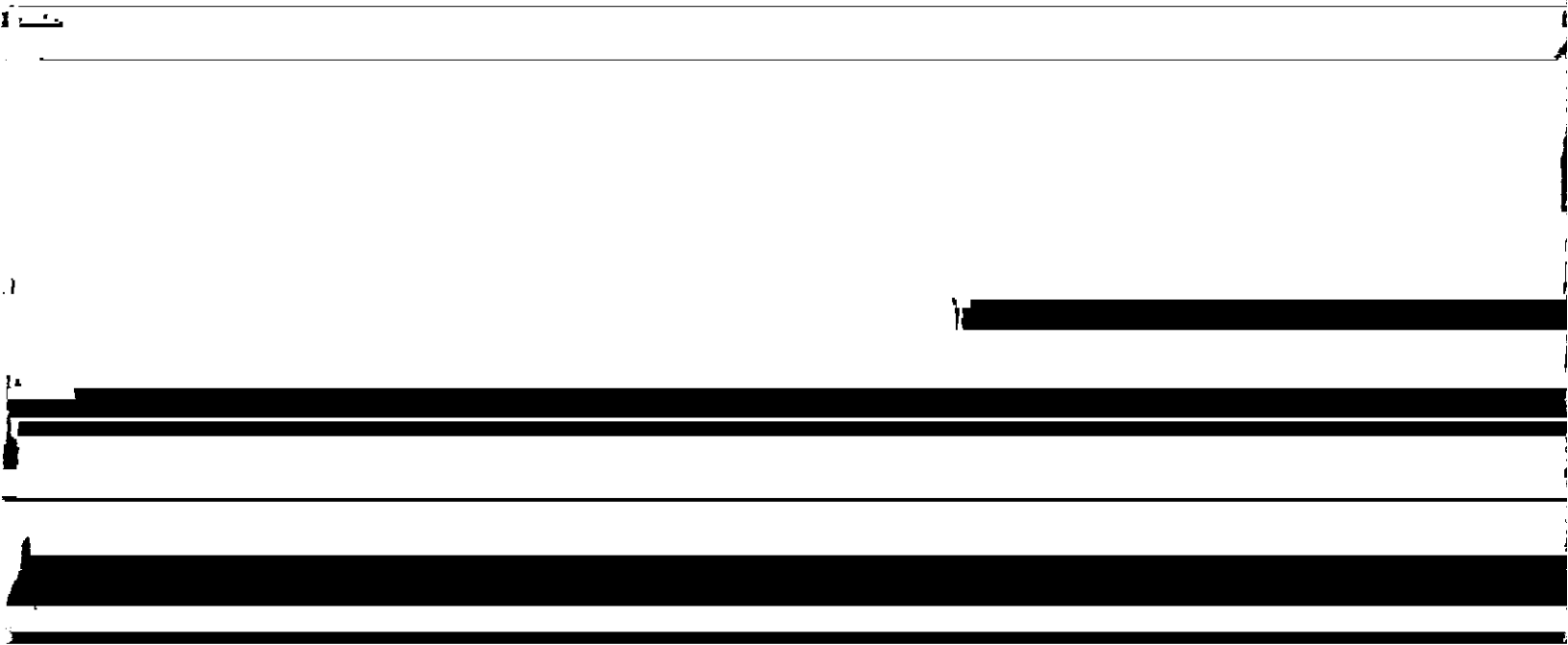
None

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 4/15/2024

Agenda Item Title/Topic: Approval/Correction of Minutes

Type of Item: Consent Action Information



Main Points:

Approval of Minutes of:
March 18, 2024

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

Fiscal Implications:

None

Recommendation:

None

Gaston County Schools
Board of Education
Monday, March 18, 2024
Meeting 5:30 p.m.
Regular Meeting

MINUTES

The Gaston County Board of Education met in a regular session on Monday, March 18, 2024 at 5:30 p.m.

in the Board Room, 943 Osceola Street, Gastonia, NC. The meeting was live on Spectrum Cable Channel 21 and The Gaston County Board of Education YouTube page. Those Board Members in attendance

Chairman: Lee Dodman, Vice Chairman: Leah Cason, Lee Dodman, Dot Guthrie

Mr. Todd Hagans recognized Landon Weaver of North Gaston High School and Bentley Sly of Stuart W. Cramer High School our two state champions in wrestling. Landon, who is a junior at North Gaston, won an individual 3A state championship in the 150-pound weight class. He finished this year with a 56-7 record. Bentley, who is a sophomore at Stuart W. Cramer, won an individual 3A state championship in the 132-pound weight class. This is Bentley's second consecutive year for winning a

Mr. Josh Crisp presented a Certificate of Recognition to each student.

Mr. Josh Crisp presented a Certificate of Recognition to each student.

Mr. Todd Hagans announced that Gaston County Schools has received the Spirit of North Carolina Award from the United Way. Gaston County Schools raised almost \$115,000 this year for the United Way.

Classroom Moment - Information

Chairman Pamcoy recognized Dr. Aaron Stutler who introduced Instructional Technology Facilitator

Krystal Strader. Ms. Strader recognized East Gaston Science Teacher, Jessica Price and students who shared how they used stop motion animation to create videos on cell division.

Public Expression - Information

Mandy Roberts
2317 Scottwood Drive
Gastonia, NC 28054
RE: Athletic Waiver

Lynette Christensen
326 Pine Avenue
Cherryville, NC 28021
RE: Pay

Approval/Correction of Minutes - Action

Minutes of the Board of Education Meeting held on 10/20/2024 (December Meeting) and February 20, 2024 (Legislative

A vote was taken and motion to approve the item as presented carried unanimously. (9-0)

(View PowerPoint)

Annual Engagement Letter with Independent Auditors - Action

to no change orders listed was made by Mr. Josh Crisp; seconded by Mr. Lee Dedmon motion carried unanimously. (9-0)

Superintendent's Comments

Superintendent Houchard announced the following upcoming events:

7:15 p.m.

The Board returned to Open Session at 7:46 p.m.

Motion

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 4/15/2024

Agenda Item Title/Topic: Operations Committee Report

Type of Item: Consent Action Information

Main Points:

The Gaston County Board of Education's Operations Committee meets regularly to discuss operations-related projects and issues. The Committee met on April 8, 2024. A

meeting by a member of the Committee.

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 4/15/2024

Agenda Item Title/Topic: Curriculum & Instruction Committee Report

Type of Item: Consent Action Information

Main Points:

The Gaston County Board of Education's Curriculum and Instruction Committee will report to the Board regarding current committee projects and issues.

A Curriculum and Instruction Committee member will present a report of committee activities occurring since the last Board of Education Meeting.

Fiscal Implications:

None

Recommendation:

None

Policy Implications:

Board will be informed of Curriculum and Instruction projects and issues.

Strategic Goal Alignment:

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

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 4/15/2024

Agenda Item Title/Topic: Instructional Resources for Elementary and Secondary Schools

Type of Item: Concept Action Information

Main Points:

Academic Services will seek Board approval on contracts being utilized during the 2024-2025 school year to ensure staff members are provided with the necessary research-based resources that support increased academic achievement and student growth. These resources will also support the continued implementation of the North Carolina academic standards.

Each of these contracts are renewals of resources currently in use in our schools. *They*

Imagine Learning (6-12), formerly Edgenuity, is an online platform used to support students in Center Virtual Academy and provide additional elective opportunities, as well

as the curriculum for our High School students in credit recovery. The current three year contract was approved on 4/17/23. This year's payment is \$236,802.

Structure (6-12) the parent company for Canvas is a 6-12 learning management

RazPlus for K-5 classrooms provides a robust collection of resources, lesson plans, activities, and guides to ensure students receive the most effective instruction possible.

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 4/15/2024

Item Title: [REDACTED]

Description: [REDACTED]

Requesting Department: [REDACTED]

Type of Item: Consent Action Information

Main Points:

Gaston County Schools aims to offer parents and guardians access to information

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 4/15/2024

Agenda Item Title/Topic: Kintegra Health

Type of Item: Consent Action Information

Main Points:

Kintegra Health, one of our current approved agencies with an existing MOA, received a grant to provide Primary Health in addition to the existing Behavioral Health Services they

offer to our students and staff to ensure in

with parent consent collected by the medical agency telehealth appointments when

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 4/15/2024

Agenda Item Title/Topic: 2024-2025 Out-of-County Tuition

Type of Item: Consent Action Information

Main Points:

The historical tuition rates for OCC students from 1990 to 2023 are as follows:

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 4/15/2024

Agenda Item Title/Topic: 2024-2025 Gaston County Schools Budget Request

Type of Item: Consent Action Information

Main Points:

The school district is required by G.S. §115C-425 to operate under an annual balanced budget resolution. The 2024-2025 budget request is based on the following assumptions:

stakeholders in December 2023. Data obtained from the budget surveys was presented

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 4/15/2024

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. 2024-2025 School Calendar Modification
- E. Contracts
 - Pleasant Ridge Elementary – Utility Easement
 - Belmont Central Elementary – Pavement Replacement
 - Cramerton Middle – Pavement Replacement
 - Page Elementary – Pavement Replacement
 - Pinewood Elementary – Pavement Replacement
 - Springfield Elementary – Pavement Replacement
 - W.B. Beam Intermediate – Pavement Replacement
 - Warlick Academy – Pavement Replacement
 - Mount Holly Middle – LED Lighting

- York Chester Middle – LED Lighting
- South Point High – Athletic Facility ADA Improvements
- North Gaston High – Baseball Field Renovation
- Street Corner High – Turf Replacement and Long/Triple Jump Relocation

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 4/15/2024

Agenda Item Title: [REDACTED]

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

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 4/15/2024

Agenda Item Title/Topic: Budget Amendments and Budget Transfers

Type of Item: Consent Action Information

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:

2024-2025 Budget

**2023-2024 Budget Resolution - March
Transfers Between Functions**

State Public School Fund

Function	Description	Expense Increase	Expense Decrease
51000	Regular Instructional Services		28,712
52000	Special Population Services		30,000
53000	Alternative Programs and Services		3,336
54000	School Leadership Services		1,388
55000	Co-Curricular Services	20,000	
58000	School-Based Support Services	30,000	
61000	Support and Development Services		955
65000	Operational Support Services	14,392	

64,392 64,392

**Gaston County Schools
Changes in Appropriations**

**2023-2024 Budget Resolution - March
Transfers Between Functions**

Local Current Expense Fund

Function	Description	Expense Increase	Expense Decrease
51000	Regular Instructional Services		50,317
52000	Alternative Programs and Services		1,146
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54000	Student Health Services		262,222
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55000	Co-Curricular Services		700
58000	School Buildings		5,027
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Gaston County Schools
Changes in Appropriations

[REDACTED]

Transfers Between Functions

Federal Grants Fund

FY 2019 FY 2020

[REDACTED]

52000	Special Population Services		200,000
53000	Alternative Programs and Services	89,134	
58000	School-Based Support Services	110,866	

**Gaston County Schools
Changes in Appropriations**

**2023-2024 Budget Resolution - March
Transfers Between Functions**

Restricted Grants Fund

Function	Description	Expense Increase	Expense Decrease
51000	Regular Instructional Services		1,413
52000	Special Population Services		200,000
58000	School-Based Support Services	200,000	
61000	Support and Development Services	1,413	
65000	Operational Support Services		2,201
66000	Financial and Human Resource Services	2,201	
		<u>203,614</u>	<u>203,614</u>

Note: These transfers shift budgeted amounts between functions from the original budget.

Gaston County Schools
Changes in Appropriations

2023-2024 Budget Resolution - March

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		(150,602)

This amendment adjusts the funding for the Classroom Teachers Allotment -
NCVPS & Best 1 of 2 ADM Reduction - Allotment Revision #43 & 45 - FY24

(PRC0001)

State Public School Fund

#	Function	Description	Increase (Decrease)	Increase (Decrease)
7	31000	Revenue - State Public School Fund		64,000
	52000	Special Population Services	64,000	
This amendment budgets funds for the Behavioral Support allotment- Allotment Revision #46 - FY24 (PRC0029)				

7 31000 Revenue - State Public School Fund 64,000

65000 Operational Support Services 149,275

This amendment budgets funds for the Transportation of Pupils allotment-
Allotment Revision #46 - FY24 (PRC0029)

**Gaston County Schools
Changes in Appropriations**

Restricted Grants Fund

Expense Revenue

#	Function	Description	(Decrease)	(Decrease)
1	48000	Local Sources - Restricted		5,000
	66000	Financial and Human Resource Services	5,000	
		This amendment adjusts the Non-Instructional Support Personnel funds - FY24 (PRC0002)		
2	48000	Local Sources - Restricted		575
	51000	Regular Instructional Services	575	
		This amendment adjusts the Classroom Material/Instruction funds - FY24 (PRC0061)		
3	48000	Local Sources - Restricted		700,000
	65000	Operational Support Services	700,000	
		This amendment budgets the for Transportation of Pupils funds - FY24 (PRC0056)		
	48000	Local Sources - Restricted		4,500

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 4/15/2024

Agenda Item Title / Topic / Construction / Repair / Change Order

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Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 4/15/2024

Agenda Item Title/Topic: 2024-2025 School Calendar Modification

Main Points:

The Board of Education approved the 2024-2025 school calendar on December 18, 2023.

Since then, the Academic Services Department has realized the need to make a modification to the school calendar to better accommodate state-mandated LETRS (Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling) training for teachers.

sheet

19 Second Semester
44 - Fourth

Half days for early
(reference days)

- and May 21

ended by May 29

October 10 and

Workday for
National Election Day

Break and
(3-24 calendar)

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 4/15/2024

Agenda Item Title/Topic: Pleasant Ridge Elementary – Utility Easement

Type of Item: Consent Action Information

Main Points:

The City of Gastonia is requesting a deed for a permanent utility easement at Pleasant Ridge Elementary School for utility improvements. This deed will also include a temporary construction easement.

Fiscal Implications:

N/A

Recommendation:

The Operations Committee recommends approval of a permanent utility easement and a temporary construction easement at Pleasant Ridge to the City of Gastonia for utility improvements.

Policy Implications:

Policy Code: 9200 Care and Maintenance of Facilities

Strategic Goal Alignment:

Other: Policy or Gen Statute. See above.

Submitted by: Jack Brooks, Interim Executive Director of Auxiliary Services **Department:** Auxiliary Services

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 4/15/2024

Agenda Item Title/Topic: Belmont Central Elementary – Pavement Replacement

Main Points:

The parking lot at Belmont Central Elementary School is old and needs to be replaced. There were five (5) bids received for this project and Quinn Sales provided the lowest bid at \$505,808.

Fiscal Implications:

We will use school bond proceeds to fund this project.

Recommendation:

Agenda Item

Agenda Item Title/Topic: Cramerton Middle – Pavement Replacement

Type of Item: Consent Action Information

Main Points:

The parking lot at Cramerton Middle School is old and needs to be replaced. There were five (5) bids received for this project and Carolina Site provided the lowest bid at \$441,349.

Financial Implications:

We will use school bond proceeds to fund this project.

Recommendation:

The Operations Committee recommends approval of the contract with Carolina Site to

[Redacted]

[Redacted] Meeting Date: 4/15/2024

Agenda Item Title/Topic: Page Elementary – Pavement Replacement

[Redacted]

[Redacted] [Redacted] [Redacted] [Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Main Points:

The asphalt at Page Elementary School is old and needs to be replaced. There were

[Redacted]

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 4/15/2024

Agenda Item Title/Topic: Pinewood Elementary – Pavement Replacement

Type of Item: Consent Action Information

Main Points:

The parking lot at Pinewood Elementary School is old and needs to be replaced. There were three (3) bids received for this project and Carolina Site provided the lowest bid at \$559,393.

Fiscal Implications:

We will use school bond proceeds to fund this project

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Recommendation:

The Operations Committee recommends approval of the contract with Carolina Site to complete the pavement replacement project at Pinewood Elementary School for \$559,393.

Policy Implications:

Policy Code: 9200 Care and Maintenance of Facilities

Strategic Goal Alignment:

~~Other Policies or Con Statute~~ See above

Agenda Item

Type of Item: Consent Action Information

Main Points:

The parking lot at Springfield Elementary School is old and needs to be replaced. There

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 4/15/2024

Agenda Item Title/Topic: W.B. Beam Intermediate – Pavement Replacement

Type of Item: Consent Action Information

Main Points:

The parking lot at W.B. Beam Intermediate is old and needs to be replaced. There were five (5) bids received for this project and Quinn Sales provided the lowest at \$242,565.

Fiscal Implications:

Agenda Item

Agenda Item Title/Topic: Warlick Academy – Pavement Replacement

Type of Item: Consent Action Information

Main Points:

The parking lot at Warlick Academy is old and needs to be replaced. There were only

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 11/15/2024

Agenda Item Title/Topic: Mount Holly Middle School LED Lighting

Type of Item: Consent Action Information

Main Points:

The current lighting at Mount Holly Middle School is old and in need of repair and replacement. Our District has been to replace older lights with LED lights since

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 4/15/2024

Agenda Item Title/Topic: York Chester Middle – LED Lighting

Type of Item: Consent Action Information

Main Points:

The Board of Directors of York Chester Middle School has approved the purchase of LED lighting for replacement of existing lighting.

replacement. Our District practice has been to replace older lights with LED lights since they are more efficient and produce brighter lighting. As a result, LED lighting will save

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 4/15/2024

Agenda Item Title/Topic: South Point High Athletic Facility ADA Improvements

Type of Item: Consent Action Information

Main Points:

The bleachers at South Point High School's athletic field needs some improvements in order to improve accessibility and to meet ADA requirements.

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 11/15/2024

Agenda Item Title/Topic: North Gaston High – Baseball Field Renovation

Type of Item: Consent Action Information

Main Points:

North Gaston High School Baseball Field Renovation

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 4/15/2024

Agenda Item Title/Topic: Stuart Cramer High – Turf Replacement and Long/Triple Jump Relocation

Type of Item: Consent Action Information

Main Points:

Stuart Cramer High School 's athletic field has artificial turf which is about 12 years old. Due to the age and condition of the turf, it needs to be replaced. We have contracted FitFields to lead us through the turf replacement process. In addition, for safety purposes, we plan to move the long/triple jump lanes and pits to the open area located behind the endzone. We are currently scheduled to advertise for bid on April 15 and a bid opening on April 30.

Fiscal Implications:

The estimated cost of the project is \$750,000 which will be paid using school bonds and \$150,000 of state funds.

Recommendation:

The Operations Committee recommends authorization to move forward with the artificial turf replacement and relocation of the long/triple jump lanes and pits at Stuart Cramer High School.

Policy Implications:

Policy Code 9200 – Care and Maintenance of Facilities

Strategic Goal Alignment:

Other: Policy or Gen Statute. See above.

Submitted by: Jack Brooks, Executive Director of Auxiliary Services **Department:** Auxiliary Services

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 4/15/2024

~~Proposed New Board Member - Forest Heights~~

Type of Item: Consent Action Information

Main Points:

The Forest Heights campus needs exterior improvements including signage, curb and

~~ADA-compliant ramps, etc. (see attached documents for details). Estimated cost: \$100,000.~~

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 4/15/2024

Agenda Item Title/Topic: Five Elementary Schools - Replace Playground

Equipment

Type of Item: Consent Action Information

Main Points:

The Board is requested to approve the purchase of playground equipment for five elementary schools.

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 4/15/2024

Agenda Item Title/Topic: W.C. Friday Middle Entrance Improvements

Type of Item: Consent Action Information

Main Points:

W.C. Friday Middle Entrance

canopies leading to the main entrance to address material/structural issues and ADA compliance. Improvements to security, pedestrian movement, and visitor experience will

Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 4/15/2024

Type of Item: Consent Action Information

Main Points:

This project continues the district's goal to redesign the main entries of schools including security vestibules for improved security, general circulation, and the student and visitor

Agenda Item

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Recommendation:

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

Policy Implications:

N/A

Strategic Goal Alignment:

Other: Policy or Gen Statute. See above.

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

