

MEETING DATE: December 7, 2022 – School Board Work Session

PENDING ACTION AND DISCUSSION

AGENDA ITEM TITLE	Consideration for Reinstatement of Valedictorians and Salutatorians
STAFF CONTACT(S)	Dr. Mike Metcalf, Chief Officer for Academics and Student Support Services Mrs. Kate Faw, Director for Planning, Accountability, and Research David Hensley, Board Member

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At the March 12, 2018 Board of Education Meeting the Board endorsed a revised senior recognition system.

This change resulted from the implementation of NC State Board of Education Policy GRAD-009 in 2015 (10 point grading scale) which changed the previous method of calculating Grade Point Average (GPA) points from an augmented grading scale (various grades equate to different GPA points, even if the grades are in the same level) to a standardized grading scale in which GPA points are based on the letter grade range. This caused class rankings to become less delineated and created a potential for a higher number of students to qualify for the valedictorian and salutatorian distinction.

Following a two year process of evaluation, that included a High School Recognition "Fire Team" (including teachers, guidance staff, parents, and students and school-based administrators), the Teacher Advisory Committee, and district and school-based student and parent advisory committees, the Board approved a move to the Latin honors recognition system with a three year phased in approach.

The following process was endorsed by the Board of Education at the March 12, 2018 School Board Regular Business Meeting:

- No changes to Board of Education Policy are needed;
- Current practice will remain in effect for the class of 2018;
- A revised senior recognition process will be implemented for the class of 2019 (current Juniors); the class of 2020 (current Sophomores); and the class of 2021 (current Freshman);

- o Valedictorian(s) will be recognized based on the GPA (All students with the top GPA will be recognized as a valedictorian.);
- o Additional student recognitions will include the Latin honors distinction;
- o Graduation speakers (from the pool of valedictorians) will be selected by a committee comprised of school staff and students; and
- A revised senior recognition process will be implemented for the class of 2022 (current 8th grade students)

Current practice as outlined in the Moore County Schools 2022-2023 Parent-Student Handbook is as follows:

Senior Graduation Recognition is based upon the following weighted GPA designation and Latin honor system:

- o 4.59 or higher – Summa cum laude
- o 4.42-4.58 – Magna cum laude
- o 4.25-4.41 – Cum laude

Graduation speakers - If there is a single student with the highest GPA in the senior class, that student will be offered the opportunity to be the graduation speaker. In addition, a second student (from the pool of students who achieved the Summa cum laude designation) may be selected to speak by a committee of school staff and students.

Dr. Mike Metcalf and Ms. Kate Faw will review the process that led to the Board’s endorsement of the revised recognition system and will provide background information on high school senior recognitions.

ESTIMATED COST <i>(if applicable)</i>	N/A
POLICY OR STATUTORY REFERENCE <i>(if applicable)</i>	Board Policy 5521: Class Ranking
SUPERINTENDENT’S RECOMMENDATION <i>(if applicable)</i>	During the December 7, 2022 School Board work session, the superintendent will seek direction from the Board.

Related documents:

[Impact of new State Regulations on High School Graduate Recognitions Presentation](#) (February 5, 2018)

[Impact of new State Regulations on High School Graduate Recognitions - Background Information](#) (February 5, 2018)

[Proposed Regulation Change for High School Graduate Recognitions](#) (March 5, 2018)

[Review of Senior Class Recognitions](#) (Prepared in May 2021)

[Recognizing Academic Excellence - Reinstating Valedictorians and Salutatorians in MCS Presentation](#)