



Board Briefs

Gaston County Board of Education ■ Communication Department ■ 943 Osceola Street, Gastonia, NC 28054
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The Gaston County Board of Education will hold its regular monthly meeting Monday, March 16, 2015, 7:00 p.m., at the Gaston County Schools Central Administrative Office, 943 Osceola Street, Gastonia. At that time, the Board will . . .

- Recite the Pledge of Allegiance.
 - Consider formal adoption of the Board Agenda as required by **Robert’s Rules of Order** (revised edition).
 - Recognize Students and Employees.
 - Provide an opportunity for Public Expression. At each Board meeting, an opportunity will be provided for the public to address the Board regarding an agenda item. If you would like to speak to the Board, please contact the Superintendent’s Office.
 - Consider approval of minutes of the February 18, 2015 meeting.
 - Receive the following Good News:
1. **Gaston County Schools** received a donation of school supplies from the **Grier Middle School** hosted the **Gaston County Schools** “Literacy Explosion!” family celebration. The program featured reading-themed activities and a storytelling presentation by Kelly Starling Lyons, an award-winning children’s book author.
 2. **Gaston County Schools** had 18 students to win awards at the UNC-Charlotte Regional Science and Engineering Fair. The following students earned first, second and third place honors to qualify for the state science fair: **Mallory Alman, Patrick Rosemond, Solomon Collins, Lauren Helms, Chrissy Humphrey, Jaji Watson, Aaron Froelich and Elizabeth Hendrix** from **Ashbrook High School** and **Devin Totherow, Amanda Rhyne and Kyra Crossgrove** from **Gaston Early College High School**. Other award winners were **Dalton Hoskins, Ashbrook High; William Raffone and Robert Raffone, Cramerton Middle; Joey Vale, Grier Middle; Ryan Proud, Belmont Middle; and Nathan Vasquez and Edgar Aguazul, Southwest Middle**.
 3. The following teachers earned National Board Certification for 2014-2015: **Terri Cochrane, North Gaston High; Lynda Euchner, East Gaston High; Erin Gates, Forest Heights Elementary; Ashley Harkey, Gardner Park Elementary; Shannon Koehler, New Hope Elementary; Ioana Larion, East Gaston High; Kerri Lowe, Cramerton Middle; Emily Moore, Robinson Elementary; Jordan Paciocco, Chapel Grove Elementary; Katherine Plecnik, Carr Elementary; Audra Pressley, Mount Holly Middle; Maria Roland, Chapel Grove Elementary; Nicole Russell, Brookside Elementary; and Bianca Yavelak, Ashbrook High**.
 4. Students at **Bessemer City Middle School** participated in a variety of activities to celebrate “Love is Louder” Week. The activities promoted how love, kindness and learning can help students overcome problems they may face as they grow up.
 5. **Elizabeth Lanier**, school social worker at **South Point High School**, was chosen the Gaston County Schools Social Worker of the Year.
 6. **Hunter Huss High School** won the 2-A state wrestling championship for the first time in school history. The team had several students finish in the top five of their weight class to propel the school to the state title, including **Charles McCombs**, who won the individual state championship in the 126-pound class.
 7. **Hunter Huss** senior **Seth Jones** was named Conference and Regional Soccer Player of the Year and was chosen for the All-State Soccer Team for the second consecutive year by the N.C. Soccer Coaches Association. He is the top scorer in Gaston County history with 122 career goals during his four years of playing high school soccer.
 8. **Hunter Huss** hosted its annual International Baccalaureate Business Expo that featured the theme, “The Love of Food.” The program gave students an opportunity to learn what it is like to operate a restaurant and prepare food from countries around the globe. The event also included exhibits that showcased multicultural artwork and projects created by students. Teacher **Michael Hatcher** and **Miriam Harvey**, the school’s dean of students, coordinated the activities.
 9. **Judy Leahy**, director of mental health services/homeless liaison for **Gaston County Schools**, and **Tammy Wade**, McKinney-Vento transportation coordinator, were invited to present a workshop at the North Carolina Homeless Education Program State Conference.
 10. **Gaston County Schools** received a \$5,000 contribution from Gastonia East Rotary Club to support the RoboGASTON 2015 competition. Rotary Club president Karl McKinnon presented the check to **Bill Cook**, assistant superintendent for curriculum, and **Carrie Minnich**, executive director of elementary education.
 11. **Jimmy Johnson**, a senior at **Cherryville High School**, was named the 2015 National Volunteer Fire Council Junior Firefighter of the Year.
 12. **Forestview High School** had two students to capture awards in the Keep Gastonia Beautiful Recycled Art Competition. **Jeancarlo Quintero** won second place and **David Cruz** earned third place. The school also had students’ artwork selected for an exhibit at Gaston College.
 13. **Forestview** senior **Jeffrey Friday** was selected as a finalist for the Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program. He was recognized for his efforts to create the “Let’s Play Soccer” summer weekend camp for children with developmental disabilities.
 14. The following **Forestview** students were named semifinalists for college scholarships: **Kaelen Forbes**, Morehead-Cain Scholarship; **Claire Neinast**, Park Scholarship; and **Jeffrey Friday**, Morehead-Cain and Park scholarships.
 15. **Forestview** student **Reaganne Goode** was chosen as a semifinalist in the Coca-Cola Scholars Program. She is one of 2,200 semifinalists selected from more than 102,000 applicants in the national scholarship program.
 16. **Ashbrook High School** student **Tyson Fortenberry** won the 3-A state title in shot put at the N.C. indoor track and field championships in Winston-Salem.
 17. The **Ashbrook** boys’ basketball team won the 3-A Western Regional Championship.
 18. The following teachers received grants totaling \$5,000 from the Gaston Arts Council to fund innovative art projects and lessons: **Lacey Beam Dellinger, Woodhill Elementary; Rebecca Belli and Anna Smith, Belmont Central Elementary; Donna Biddix, Tryon Elementary; and Brooke Martin, New Hope Elementary**.
 19. **Tonya Scott**, an instructional facilitator at **Southwest Middle**, received an \$8,000 grant from the “Art of Collaboration” program sponsored by the N.C. Museum of Art. The funds made it possible for all seventh graders to visit the art and science museums in Raleigh and gave teachers an opportunity to create lessons about the museum.
 20. **Southwest Middle** sixth grader **Gabe Gandee** won the school’s spelling bee and sixth grader **Nickolas Clinton** was the runner-up.
 21. **Todd Goff**, assistant principal at **Belmont Central Elementary**, was chosen to present at the NCTIES (North Carolina Technology in Education Society) conference in Raleigh. His session was titled “Supporting Teachers with Personalized Professional Development.”
 22. **Highland School of Technology** sophomore **Ethan Wu** earned a perfect score of 800 on the mathematics section of the Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT).
 23. **Highland** student **Bailey Birtchet** received a \$500 scholarship to attend Gaston College. The scholarship was awarded during the Gaston Art Council art show.
 24. Several **Highland** students were honored for their outstanding performance on the basketball court. Senior **Madison Armstrong** was named the Conference Player of the Year and selected for the Midwest 1A all-star girls’ basketball team. **Casey Almonds** was named to the girls’ all-conference team and **Thomas Nieminen** was named to the boys’ all-conference team.
 25. The following **Highland** students won awards at the Technology Student Association regional competition: **Lillian Abernathy, Kelsey Tanner, George Dent, Andrew Dixon, Bonham Ekleberry, Emily Laye, Caleb Valentine, Alexander Matthew, Ryan Thurston, Ethan Wu** and **Evann Wu**.
 26. **Highland** student **Kayla Carter** received a merit scholarship from Gardner-Webb University.

27. **Highland** students **Katie Purello** and **Kayla Viana** qualified to participate in the North Carolina Moot Court Championship. They competed at the regional competition with teammates **Max Jones** and **Matt Noles**, who was named best overall council arguer. Teacher **Anna Ralston-Asumendi** advises the school's moot court teams.
28. The **W.A. Bess Elementary** January Students of the Month were **Emma Grace, Trinity Moore, Lauren Hall, Nathan Moore, David Bradley, Morgan Finley, Kaitlyn Allen, Allie Osborne, Kaelye Owens, Shourya Kudravalli, Jessie Hunt, Lincoln Wilson, Emmy Thrower, Meredith Rudisill, Victoria Kannon, Madison Dean, David Russell, Lilli Marr, Payton Jacobs, Wyatt Leatherman, Marie Kalinoski, Gunner Wiedeman, Lilly Kuykendall, Jamie Lacourse, Cohen Meek** and **Alex Roche**.
29. The **W.A. Bess Elementary** student council sponsored the Hats for Hearts fundraiser and collected \$124 for the Gaston County Boys and Girls Club. The school's PTO provided new equipment for the physical education program.
30. **Kiser Elementary** fifth grade students participated in a day-long STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) competition titled "Candy Heart Catapult Challenge." The students were given the task of researching, building, testing and modifying catapults made out of Popsicle sticks, rubber bands, binder clips and other items. They had to test and modify their catapults based on their knowledge of angles, friction, force, mass and momentum. **Sheri Lewis'** class won the competition.
31. For the twelfth consecutive year, **Forest Heights Elementary School** received the WIX Winning Ways grant. The \$6,000 grant funds a character education program that offers rewards to students in grades 3-5 for positive behavior and academic progress.
32. **Belmont Middle School** captured first place in the Math Elite countywide competition. **Stanley Middle** placed second and **Cramerton Middle** took third place.
33. The East Division winners in the annual Math Masters competition were **Hawks Nest Intermediate**, first place; **Rankin Elementary**, second place; **W.A. Bess Elementary**, third place; and **Belmont Central Elementary**, fourth place. The West Division winners were **Blaine Beam Intermediate**, first place; **McAdenville Elementary**, second place; **Pleasant Ridge Elementary**, third place; and **Forest Heights Elementary**, fourth place.
34. **East Gaston High School** junior **Jessica Runyan** won the Miss East Gaston Pageant and received a \$1,000 scholarship.
35. **East Gaston** senior and basketball player **Raven Brooks** surpassed the 1,000-point scoring milestone.
36. The **Sherwood Elementary** February Citizens of the Month were **Caden Messer, Efren Gonzalez, Toni Brown, Dylan Baumgardner, Elizabeth Drawdy, Mason Baker, Mia Flowers, Xavier Lyon, Ryan Rodden, Isabel Betancur, Lanisha Lindsay, Zeth Turner, Jordan Welsh, Justin Rodden, Britain Williams, Jovanny Marte, Tailen Sloan, Roberto Martinez, Camryn Tuttle, Cohen Croom, Ania Grastley, Trevor Bunting, Emerson Benoist, Sailor Cottingham, Israel Bustos, Mary Bell, Perry Towery, Kaitlin Rumpfelt, Nick Allen, Anthony Varriale** and **Meredith Maag**.
37. **Sherwood Elementary** was chosen as a "Green School" winner in Keep Gastonia Beautiful's clean school contest.
38. The **Pleasant Ridge Elementary** school spirit committee organized a talent show for students. The committee includes **Shannon Beltakis, Elizabeth Grant, Amy Hord, Courtney Robinson** and **Kristin Riggs**.
39. Several **Gaston County Schools** students took home multiple honors in the North Carolina Scholastic Art and Writing Awards competition. **Forestview** junior **Whitney Marr** received two Gold Key awards and an honorable mention. Other award winners from **Forestview** were **Jasmine Callera, Abigail Lineberry, Tessa Palmer, Caroline Cabe, Thomas Brooks, Beyri Sotelo, Ali Patterson** and **Janese Dixon**. **Megan West**, a senior at **East Gaston High School**, received a Silver Key award.
40. **Springfield Elementary** students had the opportunity to eat breakfast with Stanley mayor Andrew Quinley, who visited the school during National School Breakfast Week.
41. **Springfield Elementary** celebrated Read Across America Day with local "celebrities" reading books to students. Librarian **Laura Campbell** coordinated visits by Board of Education member **Dot Cherry**, Stanley mayor Andrew Quinley, Debra Livingston from the Stanley and Mount Holly branch libraries, Stanley recreation director Tug Deason, Stanley police chief Derek Summey, school resource officer Doug Myers, Lorie Thomas and Dawn Massie of SunTrust Bank, and officer Kronsa Nash with the N.C. Department of Detention and Correction.
42. **New Hope Elementary** sponsored a fundraiser for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society and collected \$2,366.33. **Carol Abernethy's** second grade class raised the most money and received lunch at Olive Garden.
43. **Webb Street School** raised more than \$600 to benefit the Gaston County Special Olympics. **Ashley Hartsoe's** class won the school-wide fundraising competition and got to jump into the school's pool with principal **Kelli Howe**.
44. The **Bessemer City High School** February Students of the Month were **Andrew Kennedy, Arizona McMurry, Kaycee Frost** and **Kaitlin Fowler**.
45. **Bessemer City High School** football coach **Larry Boone** was named the Southern Piedmont Conference Coach of the Year for the second time in four years.
46. **Chavis Middle School** sixth grade teachers **Jennie Peeler, Catherine Pace, Susan Wagoner** and **Suzanne Jenkins** were selected to present at the 2015 North Carolina Association for Middle Level Education (NCMLE) Conference. Their session was titled "Interactive Notebooks: The Textbook of the Future."
47. The **Chavis Middle School** CARES group sponsored the "Hoops, Hearts, Hugs and Kisses" event to raise money for families in need and collected \$829.38.
48. The **Chavis Middle School** February Students of the Month were **Madison Pruitt, Allie McCloskey, Christian Hahn, Elliott Greene, Luv Shah, Jimmy Conner, Maggie Barnes, Burgess Beam** and **Christina Worley**. **Allison Trudnak**, sixth grade language arts teacher, was named the February Teacher of the Month.
49. **Pinewood Elementary** celebrated Read Across America Day with several events. The fifth graders used Skype to chat with a fifth grade class in Missouri about their favorite books and authors. All classes made a "quilt patch" about their favorite book, the children's librarian from the Mount Holly library presented a Dr. Seuss program for second graders, and the cafeteria staff served a 'Green Eggs and Ham' inspired lunch.
50. **Stanley Middle School** had 30 students to attend the North Carolina Junior Beta Club convention in Greensboro. **Landon Pendleton** placed third in the science academics competition, **Chloe Browning** placed third in the handmade jewelry competition, and **Nate Medici** and **Levi Summey** placed first in the technology competition.

- Consider the New School Options.
- Consider the 2014-2015 Inclement Weather Makeup Plan.
- Consider the Adoption of School Calendars for 2015-2016 and 2016-2017.
- Receive information regarding the Presentation of the 2015-2016 Superintendent's Budget Request.
- Consider the Facilities Projects Authorization.
- Consider Consent Agenda. The Board previously authorized the use of a Consent Agenda for routine items. The following items will be considered under the Consent Agenda:
 - Recommended Personnel.
 - Budget Amendments and Transfers.
 - Funding for Capital Projects.
- Superintendent's Comments.
- Closed Session – Personnel.

For more information, please contact the Communications/Public Information Department, Todd Hagans, (704) 866-6118.