

# ***Board Meeting Recap***

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The Board of Education held its regular monthly meeting Monday, February 15, 2010. At that time the Board:

**Recognized** Dustin Farris, Holbrook Middle; Carson Fletcher, Grier Middle; and Adam Knight and Matthew McKinnon, Cramerton Middle; to lead the Pledge of Allegiance. These students are working on the Boy Scout Citizenship in the Community Merit Badge. One of the requirements of this badge is to attend a City Council or School Board Meeting. Additional requirements of this Merit Badge include volunteering at least eight hours with a local charitable organization, charting the organization of local and state government and developing a public presentation about important aspects of the community.

**Recognize** the North Gaston varsity cheerleading squad for bringing home the school's eighth state championship. The North Carolina High School Athletic Association sponsors the annual state cheerleading competition which was recently held in Raleigh at the new convention center. The top cheerleader teams from all over the state participate in the event. Since 1983, North Gaston has won this honor eight times. The cheerleading squad coach is Mandy Leigh, who teaches health occupations at North Gaston, and Catherine Campbell serves as volunteer assistant coach. Leigh, a North Gaston graduate, was captain of 1997 state championship team. Squad members are Erikah Bohanan and Lauren Vincent, Captains; Sarah Barrett; Kendall Beane; Amber Davis; Quantasia Herndon; Hallie Kennedy; Rebecca Moxley; Brittany Sealey; Kate Self; Shaina Shapach; Navreet Singh; Rachelle Stewart; Kiera Watkins; Callie West; and Lauren Williams.

**Recognized** three outstanding seniors who are among 105 finalists across the country for a North Carolina State University prestigious Park Scholarship. This is a full scholarship to N.C. State and it also includes summer programs. They are the following:

- **Lauren Elizabeth Caddick**, Forestview High – She is the daughter of William and Kim Caddick. Lauren is president of the National Honor Society and the International Thespian Society and secretary of the National Beta Club. She is the recipient of the Girl Scout Gold Award and has spoken to members of Congress on the importance of art education. Lauren plans to major in art and design.
- **Michael Latham Comiskey**, Ashbrook High – His parents are Randi and Robert Brathyanski and the late Peter Comiskey. Michael is the top cadet in the Ashbrook Air Force JROTC program and a member of the National Honor Society and cross country team. He started the Book Bags for Success Program at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church and served as a N.C. House of Representatives page. Michael plans to major in aerospace engineering.
- **Stephanie Michelle Huston**, Forestview High – Her parents are Betse and Dennis Noble. Stephanie is president of the Junior Civitan Club, vice president of the Interact

Fifty students in the United States are selected as Park Scholarship honorees. The scholarship is based on four criteria: academic scholarship, leadership, service, and character. Only the top students in the country reach the finalist level of the competition. The finalists for the Class of 2014 were selected from more than 1,300 candidates.

**Received** an update from the Board of Education Operations and Curriculum Committees.

**Adopted** a proclamation to declare March *Census In Our Schools Month* and March 12 *Census In Our Schools Day*.

- Every ten years the United States population is counted. The last count was in 2000 and now it is time for the 2010 Census count. The federal government allocates more than \$400 billion every year to states and communities based, in part, on Census data. Our community gets about \$1100 for each person counted. The Census count is used to determine locations for retail stores, hospitals, new housing developments and other community facilities. Census data helps to determine your voice in congress. It determines boundaries for state and local legislative and congressional districts, and whether you get additional representation in the U.S. Congress.
- A census questionnaire will be mailed to households in Gaston County and all over the United States in March. The census questionnaires are due back by April 2010.
- The Census questionnaire has 10 short questions and it only takes a couple of minutes to fill it out, but it is vital to the funds that our schools and community receive from the federal government.
- *Census In Our Schools Month* will help raise awareness of the importance of every family completing the 2010 Census questionnaire and mailing it back. It will also offer opportunities for our students to learn valuable civic lessons.

See attached proclamation. For great school activities visit [www.census.gov/schools](http://www.census.gov/schools)

**Received** an update about the Composer Program from Patsy Davis, director of the Academically and Intellectually Gifted (AIG) program. The Composer Program is designed to nurture potentially gifted students from low-socioeconomic backgrounds who traditionally have not met the criteria for placement in the AIG program. Students in grades two through five are identified for the Composer Program through evaluation. They are then given an opportunity to grow academically through a language arts and mathematics program designed to develop the student's creativity and critical thinking and problem solving skills. GCS has 660 students in 17 schools who benefit from the program – 240 of these students qualified for the AIG program this year.

**Received** a report about the new state Evaluation Instrument for teachers. Dr. John Tutterow, executive director of human resources, gave an overview of the new Evaluation Instrument for teachers that will be used next year across the state. The State Department of Public Instruction developed the new evaluation process which parallels 21<sup>st</sup> Century Education Standards and the Principal's Evaluation Instrument. Piloting the instrument began three years ago by select school systems across the state. Gaston County Schools plans to start using the instrument next school year. Training for principals began in February and will be completed on March 3. Assistant principals and central office administrators will receive training in March and May. Principals will train their teaching staff this spring.