

GASTON COUNTY SCHOOLS

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 on Monday, April 15, 2019, 5:30 p.m., at the Gaston County Schools Central 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, the public has an opportunity to address the Board.
 - Consider approval of minutes of the March 13, 2019 and March 18, 2019 meetings.
 - Receive the following Good News for April 2019:
1. The finalists for **Gaston County Schools** Assistant Principal of the Year are **Dan Barber, Gardner Park Elementary; Kristin Haskett, Pinewood Elementary; Lucinda Huffstetler, East Gaston High School; and Deon Kennedy, Pleasant Ridge Elementary**. The winner will be announced during the Evening of Excellence ceremony on May 6.
 2. The finalists for **Gaston County Schools** Central Office Administrator of the Year are **Derrick Jackson, Academic Services; Rebekka Powers, Accountability; Celeste Sadler, Academic Services; and Sharon Anderson, Technology**. The winner will be announced during the Evening of Excellence ceremony on May 6.
 3. As part of the “Big 50 Anniversary,” **Gaston County Schools** held an employee talent show on April 9 at **Stuart W. Cramer High School**. Donations were accepted during the show, and \$520 was collected to purchase books for classroom libraries.
 4. **Gaston County Schools** held a groundbreaking ceremony on March 25 to signify the start of construction on the new **Belmont Middle School**. School representatives, elected officials, and others took part in the ceremonial turning of the dirt. The school will be ready for the 2021-2022 academic year.
 5. Eleven students from **Gaston County Schools** were selected to attend the 2019 session of the prestigious North Carolina Governor’s School. Students attending Governor’s School East at Meredith College are **Olivia Hedrick, Stuart W. Cramer High School - Visual Art; Kevin Li, South Point High School - Mathematics; Maggie Newton, Forestview High School - English; Bao Phan, South Point High School - Social Science; Chris Schiavoni, Stuart W. Cramer High School - Instrumental Music; and Ariana Stephenson, East Gaston High School - Instrumental Music**. Students attending Governor’s School West at High Point University are **Lara Moss, Cherryville High School - Visual Art; Holly Mullen, East Gaston High School - Choral Music; Shehzil Rahim, Highland School of Technology - Mathematics; Andrea Tejada, East Gaston High School - Natural Science; and Cecelia Tolbert, North Gaston High School - Natural Science**.
 6. More than 2,300 middle school students in **Gaston County Schools** were given an opportunity to explore future career possibilities during Students@Work Day on March 22. Each middle school was paired with an area business or organization, and students toured the facilities, heard from business representatives and community leaders, and discussed career options. The Gaston Regional Chamber co-sponsored the program.
 7. **Kai Shipley of John Chavis Middle School and Jordan Truss of Stuart W. Cramer High School** earned “Best in Show” honors for the “Through An Artist’s Eye” art competition at the Gaston County Museum. **Nanci Cruz-Diaz of Hunter Huss High School** won the “Director’s Choice” recognition. In addition, 100 middle and high school students received first place, second place, third place, and honorable mention awards in the following categories: printmaking, crafts, photography, comic art, ceramics, color drawing, black and white drawing, painting, sculpture, fiber, mixed media, and digital art.
 8. Employees of the technology, finance, and human resources departments for **Gaston County Schools** participated in the “Keep Gastonia Beautiful” Adopt-A-Street program. **Jeppie Bullington, Beverly McCombs, Debbie Withers, Curtis Poplin, Dana Williams, and Michael Nance** volunteered for the litter cleanup program and collected 11 bags of trash, a tire, a milk crate, and part of a car bumper.
 9. **Gaston Early College High School** student **Kyra Rhyné** received the Wayne F. Shovelin Scholarship from the CaroMont Health Foundation. The four-year scholarship is valued at \$80,000.
 10. The “Do the Right Thing” award winners for March were **Drew Natale, New Hope Elementary; Tyler Watson, W.C. Friday Middle School; and Summer Kirby, Webb Street School**. The program recognizes students for outstanding leadership, service, and character.
 11. The following students won awards in the Arbor Day art contest sponsored by the City of Belmont: **Natalie Robinson of South Point High School and Natalie Harris, Miyha Hughs, and Lala Sale, all of North Belmont Elementary**. The students were recognized during the Arbor Day art celebration held at Kevin Loftin Riverfront Park.
 12. Three **Gaston County Schools** students completed math research internships with the Gaston STEM Education and Outreach program and traveled to the Western Regional Math Fair to present their research. **Nathan Brown, a junior at South Point High School, won first prize in the high school division, and Aimee Wucherer, a ninth grader at Gaston Early College High School, earned third prize. Additionally, Bailey Phillips, a senior at South Point High School, attended to present her research on fractal patterns in the human pulmonary system.**
 13. The following students received the State Employees Credit Union “People Helping People” four-year scholarship: **Christine Ewart, East Gaston High School; Erin Fletcher, Hunter Huss High School; Eleanor Kay, Stuart W. Cramer High School; Marie Hanks, Stuart W. Cramer High School; Alexander Hardin, Highland School of Technology; Taryn Jenkins, Cherryville High School; Nelson Lomick, South Point High School; Anna Mason, Ashbrook High School; and Lauren Patton, North Gaston High School**. The scholarship is valued at \$10,000 and payable at \$1,250 for up to eight consecutive semesters for a senior to attend one of the campuses in the University of North Carolina system.
 14. The **Belmont Middle School** Battle of the Books team placed second in the Regional Battle of the Books competition.
 15. **W.A. Bess Elementary** students in **Faith Dibble’s** third grade class enjoyed talking with Dr. Jane Goodall through Skype. Goodall, a renowned primatologist and anthropologist, is considered to be the world’s foremost expert on chimpanzees.
 16. The **Bessemer City Middle School** seventh grade chorus received a superior rating and a perfect score in sight reading at the district choral competition. In addition, the sixth grade chorus received an excellent rating.
 17. **Carr Elementary** continued the “One Book, One School” initiative for the fourth consecutive year with the book, “The Candy Smash.” All students and staff members received a copy of the book. Students read a chapter each night with their parents, and participated in follow-up activities the next day in class.
 18. **Carr Elementary** participated in a school-wide essay contest sponsored by the Dallas Fire Department. Each grade level winner was treated to a ride on a fire truck and breakfast at The Country Kitchen in Dallas. Additionally, the school held its first Family Code Night. Students showed their parents and grandparents how to code.
 19. **Carr Elementary** fourth grade teacher **Melissa Hawkins** was selected to participate in the **Gaston County Schools** Pinnacle 24 Leaders program, which provides instructional technology training for teachers.
 20. **Cherryville High School** students in **Timothy Pruitt’s** physical education class participated in “Yards for Yearley,” which is a dating violence awareness campaign.

21. The **Stuart W. Cramer High School** Raging Storm Wind Ensemble received a superior performance award at the South Central district band competition.
22. **Gaston County Schools** had several school groups and PTO organizations to participate in the annual Community Foundation Run in downtown Gastonia. The event featured a 5K run, a 2K fun walk, and other activities to help nonprofit organizations raise money.
23. **Forestview High School** senior **Mikiya Gamble** received the Lewis and Elizabeth Dowdy Scholarship to attend North Carolina A&T University.
24. **Forestview High School** students **Landen Barker**, **Camille Weiss**, and **Elizabeth Morell** won gold awards in the North Carolina Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) Life Event Planning competition. All three students have been invited to compete at the national level in Anaheim, California this summer.
25. The **W.C. Friday Middle School** Unify Club visited **Gardner Park Elementary** to speak with students about inclusion and the acceptance of others.
26. The **W.C. Friday Middle School** seventh and eighth grade band earned all superior ratings at the South Central District Music Performance Assessment (MPA). **Cindy Owens** is the band director.
27. **Kiser Elementary** fifth grader **Brooklyn Stewart** placed first in the Art for Heart competition presented by the Gaston Arts Council.
28. **Pleasant Ridge Elementary School** raised \$1,200 for Holy Angels of Belmont and \$1,500 for the Levine Children's Hospital.
29. **Hawks Nest STEAM Academy** presented the play "Junie B. Jones" with performances at **Stuart W. Cramer High School**. The school also hosted its first annual schoolwide robotics showcase.
30. Fifty-one **Highland School of Technology** HOSA members received numerous awards at the HOSA state leadership conference. The school was honored for having the largest 1A chapter in the state with 114 members and was named an Outstanding HOSA Chapter for the activities that have benefited members, the school, and the community. Additionally, the school received the prestigious Gold Star Chapter Award and the Century Club Membership Award. Students **Mary Charles Burke** and **Molly Sly** received the Barbara James Service Award and advisor **Waheebah al-Uqdah** received the Gold Star Advisor Award.
31. **Hunter Huss High School** science teacher **Michelle Ellis** received a \$2,500 grant from the World Affairs Council of Charlotte to participate in international conferences, study abroad programs, language immersion classes, and other international education opportunities.
32. Theater arts students at **Hunter Huss High School** hosted kindergarten students from **Lingerfeldt Elementary** and **H.H. Beam Elementary** for a performance of "Seuss on the Loose" on Read Across America Day.
33. **Rebekka Powers**, chief accountability officer for **Gaston County Schools**, and **Hunter Huss High School** principal **Bryan Denton** presented a session during the North Carolina Association for Middle Level Education state conference in Greensboro. The session was titled "Making Growth Mindset a Reality."
34. **Hunter Huss High School** teacher **Alisha Hester** and students **Jaylen Ladet**, **Aliya Wilson**, and **Geneva Warren** attended the 2019 Piedmont Culinary Guild Symposium. The students spent the day meeting with and learning from culinary experts.
35. **Hunter Huss High School** teacher **Alicia Kale** was accepted to participate in the teacher seminar program presented by the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History. The Institute offers rigorous seminars for K-12 educators. The weeklong workshop will give participants an opportunity to attend programs with leading American historians, visit local historic sites, and conduct research and activities using primary sources.
36. **Lingerfelt Elementary** parent involvement specialist **Thressia Greer** was recognized by her principal **Staci Bradley** and **Academic Services** employees **Derrick Jackson**, **Beth Washle**, and **Sarah Rector** for "going the extra mile."
37. **Lowell Elementary** raised more than \$9,000 during the school's inaugural Spring Fun Run to purchase Chromebook computers and a Chromebook cart. Additionally, the school recognized 146 students who achieved A and A/B honor roll status.
38. **North Gaston High School** held a "Paint With Bob Ross Day." It was an opportunity for students and staff to express their artistic side and create artwork in the style of Bob Ross, who hosted a painting television program on PBS.
39. **Sadler Elementary** raised more than \$5,000 during its Spring Book Fair, which was held in conjunction with Read Across America Week. Media specialist **Tiffany Suttles** coordinated the event. Additionally, school counselor **Tim Hardin** presented a Career and Education program for all students.
40. **Sherwood Elementary** collected more than \$3,300 for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society "Pennies for Patients" fundraiser. To celebrate National Poetry Month, the school invited poet Allen Wolf to share his work with students.
41. **Makayla Smith**, a fifth grader at **Sherwood Elementary**, was honored during a recent Charlotte Hornets basketball game for her determination to succeed in reading and academics.
42. The **Stanley Middle School** band had the opportunity to attend a full rehearsal as the U.S. Army Chorus and Band prepared to perform at the President's Cup. **Kristopher Armstrong**, an **East Gaston High School** alumnus and member of the U.S. Army Chorus, coordinated the event.
43. **Woodhill Elementary** music teacher **Destiny Stone** starred as "Nina Simone" in the Actor's Theatre of Charlotte's presentation of "Nina Simone: Four Women."
44. **York Chester Middle School** students **Aria Pero** and **Carolyn Parsons** advanced to the regional competition of the Optimist Club oratorical essay contest. Additionally, the school had a successful Career Day program that featured 67 businesses and 88 professionals representing different career fields.

- Classroom Moment.
- Operations Committee Report.
- Curriculum and Instruction Committee Report.
- Consider the National School Library Month Proclamation.
- Receive information regarding the Gaston County Schools Strategic Plan 2019-2024.
- Consider the Second Semester Exam Schedules for Traditional High Schools and Gaston Early College.
- Consider the Federal Program Grants.
- Consider the 2019-2020 Budget Request.
- Consider the Reduction in Force – Strategic Planning.
- Consider the 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 Budget Transfers.
 - Construction/Repair Change Orders.
 - Student Promotion and Accountability – Policy 3420.
 - Contracts:
 - Edgenuity Contract Renewal: High School Credit Recovery, Virtual School, and Services for Exceptional Children.
 - Athletic Trainer Contract.
 - Gym Floor Replacement – Chavis Middle School.
 - Elevator Refurbishing – York Chester Middle and Bessemer City Middle.
 - Lighting Replacement – North Gaston Baseball Field.
- Superintendent's Comments.
- Closed Session – Personnel and Consultation with Attorney.

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