



# 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, December 18, 2017, 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 October 2, 2017 and October 16, 2017 meetings.
  - Receive the following Good News for December 2017:
1. **Gaston County Schools** has announced the five finalists for 2018-2019 Gaston County Teacher of the Year. They are **Carmin Adams, Belmont Central Elementary; Karen Coffey, McAdenville Elementary; Lori Collins, Highland School of Technology; Tammy Holland, Robinson Elementary;** and **Brittany Reid, York Chester Middle School**. The winner will be named in May during the Evening of Excellence ceremony.
  2. **Bessemer City High School** assistant principal Meghan LeFevers was named the 2018 North Carolina Secondary Assistant Principal of the Year. The award is presented by the North Carolina Principals and Assistant Principals Association.
  3. The **Gaston County Board of Education** received the Gold Bell Award from the North Carolina School Boards Association. The award is given to Boards of Education across the state that have all members to complete training through the Association’s Academy of School Boardmanship. Gaston County also received the award last year.
  4. The **Cherryville High School** varsity and junior varsity cheerleaders took first place at the 2017 North Carolina High School Athletic Association Cheerleading Invitational Championship. The squads earned top awards in the Small Division II category. This is the fourth NCHSAA state title for coach **Wendy Holt** and her cheerleaders.
  5. **Cherryville High School** is the first school in Gaston County to have a one-to-one technology program. Every student and teacher has a Google Chromebook to use throughout the school day. The effort is making it possible for students and teachers to be actively engaged in teaching and learning by having technology at their fingertips.
  6. **Highland School of Technology** students **Dustin Hoffman** and **Julia Murrow** were named QuestBridge Scholars in the Class of 2018. Through the QuestBridge program, they will receive a full-tuition scholarship. Dustin plans to attend Emory University and Julia plans to attend Duke University. Over the past three years, five Gaston County students have earned scholarships in the highly-competitive QuestBridge program, which provides financial support for the country’s most promising students.
  7. **Highland School of Technology** conducted a ceremony on November 21 to celebrate the school’s distinction as a 2017 National Blue Ribbon School. The recognition is given annually by the U.S. Department of Education to schools that have shown consistent outstanding academic performance.
  8. **Highland** received four honorable mention awards in the “What’s Super About Public Schools” video contest sponsored by the N.C. School Boards Association.
  9. Members of the **Highland** HOSA (Health Occupations Students of America) club along with students, faculty, and staff participated in the annual Operation Christmas Child community service project and packed more than 100 gift boxes for children.
  10. Students in the research methods class at **Ashbrook High School** created a video for the LANXESS Factor Manufacturing Day Video Contest and won third place in the national competition that involved about 400 high schools. The school will get \$1,500 to purchase new science lab equipment. Additionally, **Forestview High School** finished in the top eight and will receive \$1,000.
  11. **Lingerfeldt Elementary School** hosted another successful Junior Achievement Day. Representatives from the business world spent the day in the classroom, sharing information with students about personal finance, economics, good decision-making, leadership, entrepreneurship, and more.
  12. **Pleasant Ridge Elementary School** held a Math Fair to engage students in math and other subjects like science and technology. After a day of showing off their projects, students welcomed their parents to school for an evening time awards ceremony. The program combined learning with fun for all students.
  13. **South Point High School** student **Riley Nichols** was selected as the recipient of the 2017 High School Leadership Award presented by the Carolina Panthers. The award recognizes a high school senior football player who demonstrates exceptional leadership qualities on the field, in the classroom, and in the community. In honor of Riley, the school will receive \$2,000 for its athletics department.
  14. Elementary students at **Bessemer City Central, Catawba Heights, Gardner Park, Lingerfeldt, Pleasant Ridge, Robinson, and Woodhill** enjoyed a visit from “Hugo the Hornet,” who brought the Charlotte Hornets’ book bus to the schools and gave a fun presentation about the importance of reading.
  15. **Lingerfeldt Elementary** second grade teacher **Jessica Fontenot** received a Bright Ideas grant from Rutherford Electric to create a weather station.
  16. **Webb Street School** received a \$30,000 contribution from the Community Foundation of Gaston County and a \$3,600 contribution from the Gaston County Sheriff’s Office to support the school’s inclusive accessible playground project.
  17. **Belmont Middle School** is celebrating a year of “Wonder” by emphasizing kindness every day. Students have participated in door decorating activities, displayed handprints that state their unique qualities, and read the book and watched the movie, “Wonder.”
  18. The **Belmont Middle** Beta Club collected 1,471 canned food items for the Belmont Community Organization.
  19. **Belmont Middle** eighth grader **Lydia Crawford** participated in the N.C. Middle School Honors Chorus. Of the 1,000 students who auditioned, she was the only soprano selected from Gaston County for the prestigious chorus of 139 students.
  20. **W.A. Bess Elementary** fifth grader **Sadie Forbes** placed in the 25th annual National Gingerbread House competition hosted by the Grove Park Inn in Asheville. Her creation was titled “Sweet Lighthouse & Salty Air.”
  21. **John Stone**, a language arts teacher at **Stanley Middle School**, was named the 2017 Kia Outstanding Educator and won a brand new Kia Rio from Kia of Gastonia.
  22. **Stanley Middle School** had more than 500 people to attend a reception and open house for former and current faculty, alumni, friends, and community members to reminisce and get a final look at the building that has served the Stanley community for six decades. Students and staff will move into a new school building in January.
  23. **Stanley Middle** collected more than 5,500 items for the food pantry in Stanley. **Dru Lockridge’s** class delivered the items and helped to stock the shelves.

24. **W.A. Bess Elementary** fourth and fifth grade students in the Stand Up Club conducted a toy drive for the Salvation Army. School counselor **Renea Walker** and teacher **Jennifer Crooks** organized the project.
25. **Hunter Huss High School** teacher **Michelle Ellis** received the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching.
26. **Hunter Huss High School** students volunteered for the Operation Christmas Child program and helped to prepare gift boxes for delivery.
27. Students at **Bessemer City Middle School** enjoyed a program by the Gaston County Veterans Council that highlighted the importance of the American flag and the proper way to raise and fold the flag.
28. **Sherwood Elementary** collected more than 1,700 canned goods for the Salvation Army.
29. Second graders at **Bessemer City Primary** visited City Hall to learn about government and city services. They also had an opportunity to meet mayor Becky Smith and sit in the city council members' chairs, acting as if they were the mayor and city council. The visit was part of the students' lesson about government and civics.
30. **Carr Elementary** fourth grade teacher **Ashley Loftis** received a Bright Ideas grant from Rutherford Electric. Her grant titled "Makey Makeys" focuses on invention literacy.
31. **Costner Elementary** second grader **Bryna Gibson** was the top seller in the school's fundraiser. She won \$100 in prize money and donated it to Levine Children's Hospital.
32. **Costner Elementary** teacher **Kim Gaddy** received \$1,000 in school supplies from the J.B. Hunt trucking company.
33. The following **Stuart W. Cramer High School** students participated in the UNC-Charlotte Invitational Honors Band and were awarded scholarships: **Lathan Birmingham**, first chair in the clarinet section and received an award for outstanding musicianship, \$10,000; **Dillon Wilson**, first chair in the French horn section, \$8,000; and **Gina Palisi**, sixth chair in the flute section, \$8,000.
34. **Springfield Elementary** held a luncheon for employees in the **Gaston County Schools** facilities department.
35. The **Cramerton Middle School** "Holiday Singers" performed at the East Gastonia Lions Club's annual holiday party.
36. **W.C. Friday Middle** collected \$3,000 to help purchase additional books for the media center as a result of the school's "Turkey Trot." The school also sponsored a "Pennies for Pasta" campaign and collected \$2,108.86 for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.
37. **W.C. Friday Middle** eighth grader **JaQuan Sanders** won an essay contest and received a \$1,000 check for the school.
38. **Gardner Park Elementary** collected 1,504 cans for the Salvation Army's canned food drive. Students also collected 430 jars of peanut butter and jelly for the Guardian Ad Litem program.
39. **Gardner Park Elementary** held a "Turkey Trot" and raised \$3,500 to help refurbish the school's playground equipment. Bi-Lo, Harris Teeter, and Publix donated a turkey to one student from each grade level.
40. The **Holbrook Middle School** robotics team visited Cross Automation and had the opportunity to learn from employees about robotics in the workplace.
41. **McAdenville Elementary** second grader **Dwayne Cole** was chosen to "flip the switch" at the annual McAdenville tree lighting ceremony.
42. **Page Primary** received a new American flag from N.C. Representative Dana Bumgardner, who presented the flag and talked about his role as a state lawmaker.
43. **Page Primary** students raised more than \$700 for the United Way. By exceeding their goal, students had the opportunity to duct tape principal **Bill Kessler** to the wall.
44. **Pinewood Elementary** students made holiday cards for a boy battling a terminal illness.
45. **Tryon Elementary** fourth grade students presented a Veterans Day program that featured a play and musical selections. Veterans and the different branches of the military were honored during the program.
46. **Tryon Elementary** principal **Todd Dellinger** made good on a promise to eat bugs after students exceeded a school-wide goal of 4,000 Accelerated Reader (AR) points.

- Classroom Moment.
- Consider the Career and Technical Education Business Advisory Council.
- Receive information regarding the School Health Advisory Council.
- Receive information regarding the 2018-2019 Budget Update.
- 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.
  - Board Policy Updates.
  - Contracts:
    - Pleasant Ridge Elementary School Copiers/Printers
    - Stanley Middle School Security Camera System
    - Stanley Middle School Intercom System
    - Facilities – Vehicle Replacement
- Superintendent's Comments.
- Recognition of Outgoing Board of Education Member.
- Closed Session – Consultation with Attorney, Award, Property, and Personnel.

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