

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, February 17, 2020, 5:30 p.m., at Bessemer City High School, 119 Yellow Jacket Lane, Bessemer City. 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 January 17, 2020 meeting.
 - Receive the following Good News for February 2020:
1. **Gaston County Schools** had more than 350 outstanding middle school and high school musicians to participate in the all-county band concert on Saturday, February 8 at **Ashbrook High School**. The event featured performances by two middle school groups, the high school symphonic band, and the high school wind ensemble. Students were chosen for the all-county band clinic through an audition process.
 2. **Stuart W. Cramer High School** hosted the South Central All-District Band Clinic, which featured more than 300 student musicians from across the Charlotte region. The following Gaston County students were chosen for the band: **Mattie Grace Branham and Arowen Caldwell, Stanley Middle; William Buzzeo, Forestview High School; Hugh Glenn, Belmont Middle; Aaron Holler, Gabriel Smith, and Ariana Stephenson, East Gaston High School; Robbie Holmes, James Hoyle, Bayla McSwain, Mary Elizabeth Martin, Hailey Royall, Trivice Sadler, and Chris Schiavoni, Stuart W. Cramer High School; Payton Huffman, Cherryville High School; Luke McCormick, South Point High School; Hannah Tessneer, John Chavis Middle; Alejandra Umanzor, W.C. Friday Middle; and Isabelle Soper and Catlyn Whisenant, Bessemer City High School.**
 3. The four finalists for Gaston County Principal of the Year 2020-2021 are **Audrey Devine, Stuart W. Cramer High School; Amy Holbrook, York Chester Middle; Crystal Houser, Forestview High School; and Chad Hovis, Brookside Elementary.**
 4. The five finalists for Gaston County New Teacher of the Year 2020- 2021 are **Mica Cline, Bessemer City Middle; Trevor Dunlap, Pleasant Ridge Elementary; Hannah Fore, W.A. Bess Elementary; Ashley Kerr, Webb Street School; and James Tatum, Mount Holly Middle.**
 5. The five finalists for Gaston County Teacher Assistant of the Year 2020- 2021 are **Kathaleen Heath, Pinewood Elementary; Maggie Jo Hess, Webb Street School; Karen Hendricks, Chapel Grove Elementary; Bridget Means, Carr Elementary; and Shirley Trobaugh, Springfield Elementary.**
 6. High school students from **Ashbrook, Stuart W. Cramer, East Gaston, Forestview, Highland, and North Gaston** earned 20 awards in the Mid-Carolina Regional Scholastic Art and Writing Awards program. The students won three Gold Key, five Silver Key, and 12 honorable mention awards.
 7. The following students were overall winners in the Gaston Regional Science and Engineering Fair: **Audrey Hester, Ashbrook High School; Avery Davis, Belmont Middle School; and Sydney Mitchell, Hawks Nest STEAM Academy.**
 8. **South Point High School** junior **Sydney Lester** earned the Congressional Gold Medal Award, which is awarded to students by the U.S. Congress for accomplishments in four areas: voluntary public service, personal development, physical fitness, and expedition and exploration. The Gold Medal level requires a total of 800 hours over a minimum of two years. Her activities included volunteering for Cancer Services of Gaston County and organizing a fundraising project that raised \$15,000. Her focus on swimming met the requirements for physical fitness, and for personal development, she learned German and took up rowing. Her expedition/exploration requirement included trips to Washington D.C., Philadelphia, New York, and Boston to study U.S. history and architecture.
 9. The “Do the Right Thing” award winners for January were **Jackson Bryant, Gardner Park Elementary; Matthew Loudon, W.C. Friday Middle School; and Nora Weathers, North Gaston High School**. The awards program recognizes students for outstanding leadership, service, and character.
 10. **Gaston County Schools** received a donation of hygiene products from Aetna Insurance. The items included body wash, deodorant, tissues, and hand sanitizer. School social workers took on the responsibility of distributing the items to students.
 11. Seven **Gaston County Schools** employees were nominated for the 2019-2020 LifeChanger of the Year Award. LifeChanger is a national program that recognizes teachers and school administrators who are making a significant difference in the lives of students by exemplifying excellence, positive influence, and leadership. The nominees are **Philip Biedenbender, chorus teacher, Ashbrook High School; Kelli Howe, principal, Webb Street School; Faith Huff, media specialist, York Chester Middle School; Darius James, business/finance teacher, Ashbrook High School; Victoria Lawson, English teacher, Ashbrook High School; Shannon Mejia, world history teacher, Ashbrook High School; and Jessica Parker, health teacher, Ashbrook High School.**
 12. Classroom Central brought its VROOM truck to **Woodhill Elementary**, and 109 teachers from across the county had the opportunity to “shop” for classroom supplies. The donated supplies were valued at \$35,000. In addition, representatives from the Community Foundation of Gaston County and the Carrie E. and Lena V. Glenn Foundation stopped by to renew their support of Classroom Central’s work in Gaston County. Both foundations have supported Classroom Central’s mission since 2011.
 13. The following schools won county sports championships: **Cramerton Middle, volleyball; Cramerton Middle, soccer; and Grier Middle, wrestling.**
 14. The following students were named Big South 3A Swimmers of the Year: **Luke Harmon, Ashbrook High School; David Major and Kendall Conrad, Stuart W. Cramer High School; Maximus Pavone and Paige Thomas, Forestview High School; and Allison Kimmel, Hunter Huss High School.**
 15. **Belmont Middle School** band director **Carrie Lineberger** was chosen to serve as a clinician for the South Central All-District Band Clinic.
 16. The following students were winners in the **Belmont Middle** geography bee: **Avery Davis, first place; Michah Adams, second place; and Kagan Kopruch, third place.**
 17. Students at **Bessemer City Primary** donated almost 1,000 cans of food to the Bessemer City Crisis Center and contributed more than \$420 to the United Way campaign.
 18. **Bessemer City High School** band director **Laradon Pilot** was recognized as the 2020 Award of Excellence recipient for the South Central District.
 19. **W.A. Bess Elementary** student **Will Trogdon** won a contest sponsored by Keep Gastonia Beautiful to name the organization’s bee mascot. The name he submitted, Miss Polly Nator, was chosen from 415 student entries.
 20. Keep Gastonia Beautiful recognized **W.A. Bess Elementary** as a winner in the “I Love a Clean and Green School” contest.

21. **W.A. Bess Elementary** students have their artwork on display during the month of February at two locations. Student art media is on display at the **Gaston County Schools** finance office, and students' clay artwork pieces, ranging from masks to animals, are displayed at the Gaston County Public Library - Union Road Branch.
22. **Carr Elementary** students collected 296 jars of peanut butter and jelly for the Guardian Ad Litem program to distribute to local food pantries.
23. A new playground has been installed at **Carr Elementary**. The playground was made possible by contributions of students and staff, the Town of Dallas, the Dallas Police Department, and Judy Foster.
24. **Carr Elementary** held its second Family Code Night on January 28. Additionally, students and staff participated in the Great Kindness Challenge during the week of January 27 and enjoyed special activities each day.
25. **Carr Elementary** sponsored a Local Heroes Breakfast, which was organized by the "Leader in Me" events action team. The school's bus drivers and custodians, the mayor of Dallas, other elected officials, and representatives from the Dallas Police Department, Dallas Fire Department, and Dallas Rescue Squad were invited to attend. Students in the Carr Student Leadership Club provided a short program and led tours of the school.
26. **Cherryville High School** senior **Peyton Huffman** received the South Central All-District Band Clinic's John B. Howren Scholarship. The scholarship is awarded to only one member of the all-district honors band, and it is a tuition contribution for the recipient to attend a summer music camp.
27. The **Cherryville High** junior varsity and varsity cheerleaders won the N.C. Cheerleading Coaches Association's Division II state championship on February 1. This is the school's 10th championship since 2009. In December, the teams won the N.C. High School Athletic Association's Division II state championship for the fifth consecutive year.
28. The **Stuart W. Cramer High School** counseling department received a \$500 contribution from the New York Life Insurance Company as part of the "Grief Sensitive School" program.
29. Students at **Forestview High School** donated \$1,285 worth of gift cards to the Destiny Lives on Foundation. The gift cards are used to assist the families of patients at Levine Children's Hospital throughout the year.
30. **Forestview High School** senior **Sarah Tolbert** is the winner of the Everfi and Fifth Third Bank Finance Academy Scholarship for 2019-2020. The scholarship is valued at \$2,500, and her winning contest submission will be featured on the Everfi blog.
31. **Lingerfeldt Elementary** held a Hispanic Heritage Celebration that featured beautiful decorations, authentic Mexican food, a dance performance, and contests. First ARP Church in Gastonia provided support for the program.
32. St. Michael Catholic Church sponsored a holiday gift event at **Lingerfeldt Elementary**. Students were able to choose a gift for themselves or a family member. More than 40 volunteers from St. Michael Catholic Church, First ARP Church, Lanxess, and Zeta Phi Beta Sorority helped to make the program possible.
33. **McAdenville Elementary** raised \$1,791.69 for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society through the "Pennies for Patients" initiative.
34. **Gaston County Board of Education** member **Lee Dedmon** served as the guest reader for **McAdenville Elementary's** kickoff of the "One Book, One School" reading program.
35. **Pinewood Elementary** held an open house on January 26 to celebrate the school's 50th anniversary. More than 400 people attended the family reunion-style event that gave current and former students and employees and others a time to fellowship and reminisce.
36. The **Robinson Elementary** robotics team participated in the First Lego League state competition. The team is coached by **Amber Litfin**.
37. **South Point High School** junior **Logan Threatt** scored the 1,000th point of his high school basketball career during a recent game against York Comprehensive High School.
38. **Tryon Elementary** principal **Meghan LeFevers** was nominated for the Marvin R. Pittman Champion of Education Award.
39. **York Chester Middle School** recognized local veterans during a citizenship character education assembly. The guests spoke about their service to the country and the importance of being a good citizen.

- School Board Recognition Month.
- Classroom Moment.
- Operations Committee Report.
- Curriculum and Instruction Committee Report.
- Receive information regarding End-of-Grade/End-of-Course Summer School.
- Receive information regarding the Eligibility of Transfer Athletes – Revise Policy 4316.
- Consider the Acceptance of the June 30, 2019 Compliance Report.
- Consider the Annual Engagement Letter with Independent Auditors.
- 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.
 - Senate Bill 199 – Child Abuse Reports and Investigations.
 - Roof Replacement – Highland School of Technology.
 - Roof Replacement – East Gaston High School.
 - Utility Easement.
 - Chromebook Purchase.
 - Contract:
 - Microsoft Software Agreement.
- 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.