



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, March 20, 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 February 6, 2017 and February 20, 2017 meetings.
- Receive the following Good News for March 2017:

1. **Catawba Heights Elementary** and **Stanley Middle** were the overall winners at the annual RoboGASTON competition and will advance to the western regional robotics competition. Six other school teams will also compete at the regional contest based on their qualifying scores at the local level: **Belmont Central Elementary, W.A. Bess Elementary, Bessemer City Central Elementary, New Hope Elementary, Pinewood Elementary, and Rankin Elementary.**
2. A group of middle and high school students earned multiple honors in the Mid-Carolina Regional Scholastic Art and Writing Awards program. Students from **Ashbrook, Cramerton, Stuart W. Cramer, East Gaston, and Forestview** won 34 awards including 12 Gold Key, 11 Silver Key, and 11 honorable mentions.
3. **East Gaston High School** senior **Cameron “Cammie” Tarte** won a Silver Key national award in the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards program. She won the national honor for her sculpture titled “Meraki.” Her art teacher is **Justin Allison.**
4. The five finalists for **Gaston County Schools** Teacher Assistant of the Year are **Kristen Cloninger, Page Primary; Deborah Davis, Catawba Heights Elementary; Betsy Peddycord, Woodhill Elementary; Joseph Rothwell, W.C. Friday Middle; and Cheryl Welle, Gardner Park Elementary.**
5. **Glynis Brooks**, executive director of K-12 instruction for middle schools, received the Central Office Administrator to Watch Award given by the North Carolina Association for Middle Level Education. The award was presented at the Association’s state conference in Greensboro.
6. **Shane Hawkins**, the automotive teacher at **East Gaston High School**, was honored by Fox 46 Charlotte as part of the television station’s “Teachers Getting Results” program.
7. **Hunter Huss High School** received a retired ambulance for its Career Academy program. It will be used to train students who are involved in the EMT (Emergency Medical Technician) program. County commissioner Don Grant coordinated the ambulance donation, and it was presented during a ceremony that included Mr. Grant, Board of Education member **Dot Cherry**, Superintendent of Schools **W. Jeffrey Booker**, and Congressman Patrick McHenry.
8. The **Grier Middle School** boys’ team and the **Mount Holly Middle School** girls’ team won the county basketball championships.
9. **Heather Baker** of **H.H. Beam Elementary** was named the Gaston County Schools Social Worker of the Year. The announcement was made during National School Social Work Week.
10. **York Chester Middle** and **Robinson Elementary** were chosen as winners in the “I Love A Clean School” contest sponsored by Keep Gastonia Beautiful.
11. **York Chester Middle School** honored local veterans during a citizenship character education assembly. The **Ashbrook JROTC** presented the colors during the program.
12. **Gardner Park Elementary** held its annual Cinderella Ball for kindergarten classes. The students came to school dressed as princes and princesses and walked the red carpet to meet the queen, principal **Jaime Wallace**, and the king, custodian **Clarence Patterson.**
13. **Gardner Park Elementary** teacher **Ashley Harkey** received a \$1,920 grant for her project “Literacy Meets Robots.” Harkey will receive eight Dash and Dot robots that students can program by applying their coding skills.
14. **Mount Holly Middle School** conducted a read-a-thon and raised \$3,400 to purchase new books for the library.
15. **Highland School of Technology** students and faculty donated 70 books during the “Share Your Love of Reading” book drive. The books were given to students at **Hawks Nest STEAM Academy.** Highland media specialist **Laura Long** and Hawks Nest media specialist **Eddie Crook** organized the “book swap” event.
16. Students at **Bessemer City Middle School** participated in a variety of activities to celebrate “Love is Louder” Week. The activities promoted how love, kindness, compassion, and learning can help students overcome problems they may face as they grow up.
17. **Stuart W. Cramer High School** teacher **Nicholas Patterson** and his Welding III students built Pinewood Derby trophies for members of the Cub Scout Pack #56 at First United Methodist Church in Belmont.

18. **South Point High School** junior **Blake Zieske** surpassed the 1,000-point scoring milestone in basketball during a recent playoff game. **Ashbrook High School** junior **Trinity Jones** also surpassed the 1,000-point scoring milestone.
19. The following schools received a \$300 grant from Keep Gastonia Beautiful: **W.A. Bess Elementary, Gardner Park Elementary, Hawks Nest STEAM Academy, Hunter Huss High, Southwest Middle, Webb Street School, and York Chester Middle.**
20. The Middle School Battle of the Books winners were **Belmont Middle**, first place; **Cramerton Middle**, second place; and **John Chavis Middle**, third place.
21. **Abigail Lefler**, an eighth grade student at **Belmont Middle School**, qualified to compete in the 2017 National Geographic State Bee.
22. The “Do the Right Thing” award winners for February were **Brendetta Johnson, Robinson Elementary; Makayla Wall, Stanley Middle; and Olivia Taggart, North Gaston High.** The awards program recognizes students for outstanding leadership, service, and character.
23. **North Belmont Elementary** hosted a “wax museum” program that featured third grade students dressing up as historical figures. During the program, the students had the opportunity to share information about the people they portrayed. **Robinson Elementary** also hosted a “wax museum” program for third graders.
24. **Robinson Elementary** held a project-based learning showcase to understand real-world economics. Students marketed products such as cupcakes and donuts and various activities including how to shoot a basketball and getting a manicure.
25. **Robinson Elementary** teacher **Tammy Holland** received a \$5,000 grant from North Carolina Community Foundation.
26. **Forestview High School** had 43 students in the German language classes to participate in a state competition at Wake Forest University. The students received 11 awards and placed third overall out of 20 schools. The students competed in various categories including poetry, spelling, skits, culture, art, singing, verb bee, and extemporaneous speaking. Their teacher is **Sabine Schmid-Rankin.**
27. **Laura Long**, the media specialist at **Highland School of Technology**, earned the Inspire Collection Development Grant and the Inspire Special Events Grant from the American Association of School Librarians (AASL) for a total of \$4,000. She will be recognized this summer at the Association’s annual convention in Chicago.
28. **Josh Hipps** and **Brandon Roche** of **Cramerton Middle** and **Sadie Absher** of **Belmont Central Elementary** are members of the local Charlotte team that participated in the National Wheelchair Basketball Association’s regional competition and earned first place. The team will travel to Louisville, Kentucky to compete against 15 other teams for the national championship.
29. **Carr Elementary** received a \$5,000 grant to create a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) lab for students and faculty. Principal **Rebekah Duncan** and assistant principal **Thomas Plecnik** coordinated the grant application.
30. **South Point High School** held its annual “Mr. South Point” charity event and collected \$4,275 for Holy Angels. **Riley Nichols** was crowned as Mr. South Point, **John Gray Blount** was the first runner-up, and **Tucker Heustess** was voted as Mr. Congeniality.
31. Students in **Kiser Elementary’s** anti-bullying club presented a skit that highlighted the theme “Not in Our School.” The message focused on kindness, helpfulness, compassion, and treating each other with respect. School counselor and club adviser **Jenna Brown** coordinated the program.

- Classroom Moment.
- Curriculum and Instruction Committee Report.
- Operations Committee Report.
- Update on Land Purchase for New Belmont Middle School.
- Receive information regarding Latin Honors.
- Consider the End-of-Grade/End-of-Course Summer School.
- Receive information regarding the 2017-2018 Budget.
- 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.
 - Construction and Repair Change Orders.
 - Resolution Supporting Local Control of School Calendar.
 - High School Exam Schedules.
 - Contracts – Benchmark Assessments Grades 3-8.
- Superintendent’s Comments.
- Closed Session – Property and Personnel.

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