



# 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, March 19, 2018, 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 January 19, 2018 and January 20, 2018 meetings.
  - Receive the following Good News for March 2018:
1. **Gaston County Schools** had six students to win awards at the Region 6 Science and Engineering Fair held at UNC-Charlotte: **Emmily Mobley, Allison Kaercher, and Alex Klasing, Stuart W. Cramer High School; Trevor Pillow, Hawks Nest STEAM Academy; Nikki Bortolussi, Rankin Elementary; and Jackson Bryant, Gardner Park Elementary.**
  2. **South Point High School** senior **Charlie Tran** was chosen to receive the prestigious Morehead-Cain Scholarship from UNC-Chapel Hill.
  3. Elementary schools across Gaston County celebrated “Read Across America Day” on March 2, which coincided with Dr. Seuss’ birthday. Schools welcomed local celebrities to serve as guest readers, including Superintendent of Schools **W. Jeffrey Booker** and Board of Education member **Lee Dedmon**, who portrayed “The Cat in the Hat.”
  4. **Cherryville High School** dedicated its Career and Technical Education hallway in honor of alumnus and benefactor Bob Barker.
  5. **South Point High School** earned first place and **Highland School of Technology** took second place in the highly-competitive Stock Market Game hosted by the North Carolina Council for Economic Education.
  6. **Highland School of Technology** had two teams to capture top honors in the local moot court competition. The team of **Sara Jane Heavner** and **Patience Foster** took first place and the team of **Joseph Buckner** and **Julia Murrow** placed second. **Anna Ballard** advises the teams.
  7. **Highland School of Technology** received the Lighthouse School Award from the North Carolina Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development. The honor recognizes the school’s commitment to academic excellence and high student achievement.
  8. The Battle of the Books winners were **Belmont Middle**, first place; **Southwest Middle**, second place; and **Cramerton Middle**, third place. **Belmont Middle**, which finished second in the state competition last year, will represent Gaston County in the regionals.
  9. **Belmont Middle School** captured first place in the Math Elite competition. **Cramerton Middle** placed second and **Holbrook Middle** took third place.
  10. In the annual Math Masters competition, the East Division winners were **Belmont Central Elementary**, first place; **Pinewood Elementary**, second place; **New Hope Elementary**, third place; and **W.A. Bess Elementary**, fourth place. The West Division winners were **McAdenville Elementary**, first place; **Bessemer City Central**, second place; **Brookside Elementary**, third place; and **Tryon Elementary**, fourth place.
  11. **Webb Street School** held its annual “Art of Fashion” show, giving students an opportunity to get all dressed up and shine on the runway in front of a cheering audience. **Board of Education** member **Dot Cherry** and Gaston County Sheriff Alan Cloninger emceed the program and introduced the students/models on the red carpet. The event was a fundraiser for the school’s efforts to build an all-inclusive playground.
  12. **Victor Ilevbare**, a senior at **Forestview High School**, received the Wayne F. Shovelin Scholarship from the CaroMont Health Foundation. The prestigious four-year scholarship is valued at \$80,000.
  13. The following educators were chosen as finalists for Gaston County Assistant Principal of the Year 2018-2019: **Todd Goff, Belmont Middle; Meghan LeFevers, Bessemer City High School; Adair McKay, Cramerton Middle; Shavon O’Brien, Mount Holly Middle; Matt Rikard, Cramerton Middle; and Lynn Stamey, Robinson Elementary.**
  14. The following educators were chosen as finalists for Gaston County New Teacher of the Year 2018-2019: **Savanna Abernathy, Bessemer City Central; Nicholas Corbett, Hunter Huss High School; Isaiah Cornelius, W.C. Friday Middle; Taylor Park, Cramerton Middle; and Abby Rouse, Robinson Elementary.**
  15. The following educators were chosen as finalists for Gaston County Teacher Assistant of the Year 2018-2019: **Angie Martin, Bessemer City Primary; Florence McCorkle, Hunter Huss High School; Lorna Ross, Cherryville Elementary; Sharon Williams, Lingerfeldt Elementary; Wendy Willis, Page Primary; and Angie Yount, Lowell Elementary.**
  16. **New Hope Elementary** and **Holbrook Middle** were the overall winners at the annual RoboGASTON competition. Other school winners were **W.C. Friday Middle**, middle school runner-up; **Pinewood Elementary**, elementary school runner-up; **Bessemer City Middle**, middle school first place robot performance; **Carr Elementary**, elementary school first place robot performance; **Woodhill Elementary**, elementary school second place robot performance; **Stanley Middle**, middle school first place project presentation; **Lowell Elementary**, elementary school first place project presentation; **Belmont Central Elementary**, elementary school second place project presentation; **Cramerton Middle**, middle school first place teamwork; **Sadler Elementary**, elementary school first place teamwork; **Tryon Elementary**, elementary school second place teamwork; **H.H. Beam Elementary**, judges award; and **Kiser Elementary**, gracious professionalism award.
  17. **Susan Clark**, school nurse at **Page Primary** and **South Point High School**, was chosen to serve on the National Board Certification for School Nurses test specifications committee. The committee, which includes the best school nurses in the country, will gather in Denver, Colorado this May to formulate test questions for school nurses who seek national certification.
  18. The **Cramerton Middle School** boys’ team and the **Grier Middle School** girls’ team won the county basketball championships.
  19. **Hunter Huss High School** science teacher **Michelle Ellis** is one of three state-level finalists for the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST). The awards program is designed to recognize outstanding science, math, and computer science teachers who value STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) education.
  20. High school band students from **Forestview** and **Cherryville** are partnering with the Gaston Symphonic Band to present “Play It Forward” concerts. It is a way to involve high school students with hopes that they will become the symphonic band’s next generation of musicians.
  21. The **Ashbrook High School** girls basketball team advanced to the Western 3-A Regional Finals and finished the season with an impressive 30-1 record.

22. **Gaston County Schools** had 38 elementary and middle school students to participate in the Gaston County Spelling Bee, which is sponsored by The Gaston Gazette.
23. **Stuart W. Cramer High School** students **Mary Elizabeth Martin** and **Violet Goodwin** placed first in the materials science category and students **David Major** and **Alex Klasing** placed first in the anatomy and physiology category at the North Carolina Science Olympiad competition.
24. **Gaston County Schools** won 38 awards in the highly-competitive Mid-Carolina Regional Scholastic Art and Writing Awards program. The awards included nine Gold Key, 14 Silver Key, and 15 honorable mentions and were presented to students from seven schools: **Ashbrook, Cramerton, East Gaston, Forestview, Gaston Early College, North Gaston, and Stuart W. Cramer.**
25. **Sadler Elementary** received \$10,000 from the Epsilon Upsilon Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity and the James Anderson Foundation to purchase books related to the science/STEAM curriculum. In addition, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority and Omega Psi Phi Fraternity donated \$1,200 to purchase gift cards for each classroom teacher.
26. **Tryon Elementary** fifth grader **Journey Grier** was recognized by State Senator Kathy Harrington for her efforts and leadership to collect coats and blankets for people in need.
27. **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 king (school custodian **Stevie Anderson**) and queen (principal **Jaime Wallace**).
28. **Gardner Park Elementary** hosted a Career Day program for fourth- and fifth-grade students to learn about jobs in the Gaston community. In addition, the school held the “Cuddle with a Book” program, which encouraged parents to read to their child or a group of children at the school.
29. Students and staff at **Gaston Early College High School** raised \$200 for the Special Olympics of Gaston County.
30. **Pleasant Ridge Elementary** kindergartener **Jimmy Lambrith** was one of 12 children selected to participate in “The Secret Life of Kids,” a documentary TV show that reveals how children act when adults are not in the room.
31. **Bessemer City High School** senior **Janeva Wilson** was awarded the Chancellor’s Scholarship to attend Winston-Salem State University.
32. **East Gaston High School** senior **Kyndal Knight** won the 1A/2A girls state diving championship.
33. **Ashbrook High School** seniors **Will Bryson** and **Elijah Fife** signed national letters of intent to play football at Mars Hill University.
34. **Stuart W. Cramer High School** soccer player **Manuel Torres** received a scholarship from Gardner-Webb University.
35. The **York Chester Middle School** band performed jazz and blues music for students at **Webb Street School** as part of a Black History Month program.
36. **York Chester Middle** held a Pi Day Eve celebration on March 13 that featured students working math problems in a game show format. **Board of Education** member **Dot Cherry** and Superintendent of Schools **W. Jeffrey Booker** were special guests for the festivities.
37. **Carr Elementary** teacher **Samantha Wong** coordinated a pen pal program for her students to correspond with second graders in South Korea.
38. **Belmont Central Elementary** second grade teacher **Ashley Harkey** received a grant from the Burroughs Wellcome Fund to purchase two 3-D printers for her classroom.
39. **Belmont Central Elementary** collected more than \$1,000 for **Webb Street School’s** playground project. Music teacher **Bruce Fox** organized the “Pennies for a Playground” fundraiser.
40. **Bessemer City Primary** held a “Lunch and Learn” program for parents to experience how their children learn in today’s classroom.
41. The following students were recognized at a Gastonia City Council meeting for their participation in the high school senior art show sponsored by Arts on Main and the Gaston County Arts Guild: **Jennifer Norris, Bessemer City; Diana Ternanni, Stuart W. Cramer; Kaylee Helms and Shawn Hedgecoe, East Gaston; and Cerys Webber, North Gaston.**

- Classroom Moment.
- Receive information regarding the 2018-2019 Superintendent’s Budget Request.
- Receive information regarding the 2018 School Bond Referendum.
- Consider the Title I Grant Application for Gaston County Schools.
- 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.
  - High School Exam Schedule – Second Semester (Including Gaston Early College High School).
  - Gaston Early College High School 2018-2019 Calendar.
  - Annual Microsoft Licensing Agreement.
  - GPS Lease – Maintenance Vehicles.
- Superintendent’s Comments.
- Closed Session – Personnel.

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