



# 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, May 15, 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 April 10, 2017 meeting.
  - Receive the following Good News for May 2017:
1. **Gaston County Schools** presented its most prestigious awards during the annual Evening of Excellence ceremony on May 2. Wells Fargo Bank sponsored the program. The winners were Teacher of the Year **Mindee Mammano**, **Stuart W. Cramer High School**; Principal of the Year **Phyllis Whitworth**, **Belmont Central Elementary**; Assistant Principal of the Year **Donna Kelly**, **Rankin Elementary**; and Central Office Administrator of the Year **Valerie Yatko**, director of business and community partnerships.
  2. The **Highland School of Technology** and the **Gaston Early College High School** were recognized in *U.S. News and World Report’s* annual high school rankings. **Highland** was identified as a Silver Award School and ranked 47th among the top 100 schools in North Carolina while the **Gaston Early College** was identified as a Bronze Award School. The rankings are determined based on graduation rate, test scores, college preparedness, student success in Advanced Placement (AP) classes, socioeconomic status, and other factors.
  3. **Sherwood Elementary** kindergarten teacher **Christine Lutz** and **East Gaston High School** automotive teacher **Shane Hawkins** were recognized on May 2 during Teacher Appreciation Night at the Charlotte Knights baseball game. They were honored along with other teachers in the Charlotte area who received the “Teachers Getting Results” award presented by Fox 46 Charlotte.
  4. **Highland School of Technology** senior **Sarah Eagan** and **Stuart W. Cramer High School** senior **Mattie Lee** were winners of the Best and Brightest scholarships presented by *The Gaston Gazette*.
  5. The Gaston County Quiz Bowl winners were **Highland School of Technology**, first place; **South Point High School**, second place; and **Bessemer City High School**, third place.
  6. **Gaston County Schools** had several school teams to participate in the RoboFest regional competition. **New Hope Elementary** had the highest score among the 48 school teams from across North and South Carolina to win the overall championship. In the robot performance category, **Rankin Elementary** placed first and **Catawba Heights Elementary** placed third. In the project presentation category, **Pinewood Elementary** placed third.
  7. Two high schools - **Stuart W. Cramer** and **South Point** - received nominations for the prestigious Blumey Awards, which recognize outstanding student achievement in theater arts. **South Point’s Kayla Booth** and **Stuart W. Cramer’s Abigail Morrison** are among the 25 students vying for best actress while **Dakota Jones** of **Stuart W. Cramer** is among the top 25 students for best actor. **Stuart W. Cramer** also earned nominations for best musical, best set construction, and best featured performer (**Jo Ocasio**).
  8. **Stuart W. Cramer High School** student **Chloe Kaylor** and **Forestview High School** student **Nicole Rodriguez** were winners in the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards contest and had their artwork chosen for placement on billboards in Gastonia and Belmont.
  9. **Katie Kiser** of **Highland School of Technology** won first place in the statewide InvestWrite finance contest.
  10. **Rebecca Gomez** of **Highland School of Technology** is the recipient of the James Buie Scholarship, which provides full tuition for her to study criminal justice at Belmont Abbey College.
  11. The following middle school choruses participated in the Music Performance Adjudication (MPA) Festival at Wingate University: **Belmont Middle**, superior rating; **Bessemer City Middle**, excellent rating; **Cramerton Middle**, superior rating; **Holbrook Middle**, superior rating; **Mount Holly Middle**, superior rating; **Southwest Middle**, superior rating; and **Stanley Middle**, superior and excellent ratings.
  12. The **East Gaston High School** concert choir sang the national anthem for the Charlotte Hornets game on April 5.
  13. Students at **Bessemer City Primary**, **Cherryville Elementary**, **Gardner Park Elementary**, **McAdenville Elementary**, and **Springfield Elementary** 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.
  14. **Webb Street School** hosted its second annual fashion show and raised more than \$20,000 for the school’s inclusive accessible playground project. More than 40 student models participated in the event along with professional models and designers from the Charlotte area.
  15. The **North Gaston High School** yearbook was recognized for excellence and featured in the 2017 Jostens Look Book, which celebrates the “best of the best” in yearbook design and coverage. It was one of only 418 yearbooks selected for the recognition from approximately 3,000 school publications.
  16. **Scott Heavner** of **Cherryville High School** was named the North Carolina High School Athletic Association’s (NCHSAA) Baseball Coach of the Year.
  17. **Cherryville High School** won the annual Gaston County high school baseball tournament held at Sims Legion Park. **North Gaston High School** took second place and **Forestview High School** earned third place.
  18. **Gaston County Schools** is receiving “retired” ambulances from the county for the EMT (Emergency Medical Technician) programs at three high schools: **Cherryville**, **Hunter Huss**, and **Stuart W. Cramer**. The ambulances will be used to provide hands-on training for students.
  19. The **Belmont Middle** Battle of the Books team placed second in the state competition. The school has won the county and regional competitions for the past three years.
  20. **Trinity Knauf** of **Belmont Middle School** achieved a county record in soccer for most goals scored in a single season with 38. The previous record was 32.
  21. **South Point High School** senior **Michaela Taylor** will have her original poem, “Swan Lake,” published in the American High School Poets anthology.
  22. **South Point High School** won the North Carolina Stock Market Game. **Nick Matthew**, **A.J. Robinson**, and **Charlie Tran** competed in the contest that focused on investing a hypothetical \$100,000 in bonds, stocks, and mutual funds. The students’ wise decision-making resulted in a \$60,571 profit, enough to earn the championship over 312 other teams. Math teacher **David Grimes** is the team’s adviser.
  23. **Gaston County Schools** observed “School Lunch Hero Day” on May 5 to express appreciation for school nutrition employees and their outstanding efforts to provide healthy breakfast and lunch meals for students.

24. Students in the Career and Technical Education (CTE) class at **Bessemer City Middle School** enjoyed a presentation by officers from the Gaston County Police Department, who demonstrated real-life robotic applications that are used in police work.
25. Fifteen students from **Gaston County Schools** were selected to attend the prestigious North Carolina Governor's School: **Lathan Birmingham** and **Paige Valego** of **Stuart W. Cramer High School**; **Jonathan Hollenback** of **East Gaston High School**; **Andrew Hughlett** of **Forestview High School**; **Alanie Odell** of **Gaston Early College High School**; **Grace Dent** and **Julia Murrow** of **Highland School of Technology**, **Josseline Vega** of **Hunter Huss High School**; and **Madison Davis**, **Kristen Fletcher**, **Jessica Helton** and **Sofia Saiz** of **South Point High School**.
26. **Lingerfeldt Elementary** teacher **Mary Beth Barrett** and **East Gaston High School** student **Cameron "Cammie" Tarte** were honored during the Gaston County Jaycees' Distinguished Service Awards ceremony. Barrett teaches fifth grade and was instrumental in the success of her school's LEAP (Leading, Educating, and Preparing) program. Tarte is an outstanding leader at school and in the community. With a true passion for art, she won the National Silver Key Award in the highly-competitive Scholastic Art and Writing Awards program.
27. Students at **Sadler Elementary** got an important lesson about business and personal finance thanks to the Junior Achievement Day program. Volunteers from Firestone Fibers and Textiles, Mann and Hummel (Wix Filters), and Woodforest National Bank took a break from their job to get in the classroom and help students in grades 3-5 learn about the importance of money management.
28. The student council at **Springfield Elementary School** coordinated a "Penny War" fundraiser, which included some friendly competition to see which classes could collect the most pennies.
29. Students at **W.A. Bess Elementary** enjoyed an assembly program by country singer Lizzie Sider, who shared her bullying prevention message. She sang several songs, including Taylor Swift's anti-bullying tune "Mean" and her song "Butterfly" that's based on her self-realization that she could rise above the cruel things people said to her. Each student received an autographed picture and a bracelet with her motto: "Nobody has the power to ruin your day!" School counselor **Renea Walker** coordinated the program. Sider also shared her anti-bullying message during an assembly program at **Bessemer City Middle School**.
30. **Lisa Funderburk** of **Catawba Heights Elementary**, **George Scoumis** of **York Chester Middle**, and **Trish Jones** of **Stuart W. Cramer High School** were honored as the School Custodians of the Year during the Keep Gastonia Beautiful awards luncheon. **Phoebe Lawing** of **Stuart W. Cramer High School** was named the Green Teacher of the Year, **Amber Avery** of **W.B. Beam Intermediate** was named the Green Coordinator of the Year, and **Jaidan Mitchell** of **Robinson Elementary** was named the Green Student of the Year for their efforts to keep their school and community "clean and green" and promote environmentally-friendly efforts. Additionally, **North Belmont Elementary** was named the Green Elementary School of the Year, **Belmont Middle** was chosen as the Green Middle School of the Year, and **Forestview High School** won the Green High School of the Year recognition.

- Classroom Moment.
- Curriculum and Instruction Committee Report.
- Operations Committee Report.
- Consider the Scholarship Opportunity – Recognition.
- Receive information regarding the Career and Technical Education (CTE) Local Planning System Grant.
- Consider the Summer Professional Development.
- Consider the Network Monitoring and Management License.
- Receive information regarding the Gaston College Board of Trustees Appointment.
- 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.
  - Board Policy Updates.
  - Title I Plan.
  - Contracts – Driver Education.
- Superintendent's Comments.
- Closed Session – Property and Personnel.

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