



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 21, 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 March 5, 2018 and March 19, 2018 meetings.
 - Receive the following Good News for May 2018:
1. **Gaston County Schools** presented its most prestigious awards during the annual Evening of Excellence ceremony on May 10. Wells Fargo Bank sponsored the program. The winners were Teacher of the Year **Carmin Adams, Belmont Central Elementary**; Principal of the Year **Denise McLean, Highland School of Technology**; Assistant Principal of the Year **Megan LeFevers, Bessemer City High School**; and Central Office Administrator of the Year **Carrie Minnich**, executive director for exceptional children.
 2. **Forestview High School** senior **Allison Roney** won a \$1,500 scholarship in the “Best and Brightest” recognition program sponsored by The Gaston Gazette. Other high school students honored as part of the program were **Megan Farris, Ashbrook High School**; **Gabby Franklin, Bessemer City High School**; **Alexander Long, Cherryville High School**; **Madison Rollins, Stuart W. Cramer High School**; **Bradley Beumer, East Gaston High School**; **Kaizyn Hancock, Gaston Early College High School**; **Casey Almond, Highland School of Technology**; **Gaby Fonseca, Hunter Huss High School**; **Shelby Parker, North Gaston High School**; **Sofia Saiz, South Point High School**; and **Stephanie Williams, Webb Street School**.
 3. The Gaston County Quiz Bowl winners were **Highland School of Technology**, first place; **Gaston Early College**, second place; and **South Point High School**, third place.
 4. Eight high school seniors won the People Helping People Scholarship presented by the State Employees Credit Union Foundation. The scholarship (valued at \$10,000) is awarded to students who have achieved excellence in academics and community involvement and exhibit good character, leadership, and integrity. The scholarship winners in the Class of 2018 are **Emma Beaty, South Point**; **Grayson Epperson, East Gaston**; **Lathan Flake, Ashbrook**; **Maggie Heavner, Cherryville**; **Ameena Hester, Highland**; **Natalie Peregrory, Bessemer City**; **Allison Roney, Forestview**; and **Everett Stone, North Gaston**.
 5. Fifty-seven students from **Gaston County Schools** were chosen to attend the James S. Forrester Commissioners’ School of Excellence. Commissioners’ School is a two-week summer enrichment program held at Belmont Abbey College that teaches rising tenth graders about Gaston County and prepares them for leadership roles at school and in the community.
 6. **Abigail Sanchez** of **Ashbrook High School** is the recipient of the James Buie Scholarship, which provides full tuition for her to study criminal justice at Belmont Abbey College. The scholarship is presented by the Gaston County Police Department.
 7. **Stuart W. Cramer High School** received three nominations for the prestigious Blumey Awards, which recognize outstanding student achievement in theater arts. **Lauren Pace**, who played the Godmother in the school’s production of “Cinderella,” is among six students vying for the best actress award. The school also earned nominations for best set construction and best costume creation. Additionally, **Emily Harris** won the Technical Achievement Award for her costume design.
 8. **North Gaston High School** senior **Tyler Zonin** received the Paul Fuller Mentor Scholarship, which is awarded annually to an outstanding high school senior who has been a part of the **Gaston County Schools** mentoring program. He plans to attend Western Carolina University.
 9. Fifteen students from **Gaston County Schools** were selected to attend the prestigious North Carolina Governor’s School: **Payton Dyksterhouse, Ann O’Gorman and Dillon Wilson of Stuart W. Cramer High School**; **Hannah Murrow and Laura Olls of East Gaston High School**; **Colton McElveen of Forestview High School**; **Mackenzie Wittmer of Gaston Early College High School**; **Adaobi Osemeka, Vaishvi Patel, Teresa Purello, and Maya Sanford of Highland School of Technology**; **Bryan Martinez of Hunter Huss High School**; and **Emily Birtwistle, Alexandra Hatsios, and Claire Mitchell of South Point High School**.
 10. **Justin Parsons** of **McAdenville Elementary**, **Kathy Scott** of **Warlick Academy**, and **Matt Holloman** of **Stuart W. Cramer High School** were honored as the School Custodians of the Year during the Keep Gastonia Beautiful awards luncheon. **Amber Avery** of **W.B. Beam Intermediate** was named the Green Teacher of the Year, **Dan Barber** of **Gardner Park Elementary** was named the Green Coordinator of the Year, and **Scott Henderson** of **Webb Street School** was named the Green Student of the Year for efforts to keep their school and community “clean and green” and promote environmentally-friendly activities. Additionally, **Rankin Elementary** was named the Green Elementary School of the Year, **York Chester Middle** was chosen as the Green Middle School of the Year, and **Bessemer City High School** won the Green High School of the Year recognition.
 11. **Highland School of Technology** students **Joseph Buckner** and **Julia Murrow** won the North Carolina Moot Court competition, and **Sara Jane Heavner** and **Patience Foster** placed second. Their adviser is **Anne Ballard**.
 12. **Highland School of Technology** student **Addison Beam** won the individual 1A state championship in golf.
 13. The **Highland School of Technology** football team was designated a Scholar-Athlete Team by the N.C. High School Athletic Association for achieving a combined team grade point average of 3.38.
 14. **Merritt McCotter**, a **Belmont Central Elementary** third grader, won the “Proudest Kid in Gaston County” essay contest sponsored by Gaston Together.
 15. **Hunter Huss High School** senior **Chase Nixon** is the recipient of the George and Patricia Barnard Scholarship, which is valued at \$20,000. He also received the Maude Carter Scholarship for \$1,000, which is awarded by the N.C. Retired School Personnel organization.
 16. **Hunter Huss High School** teacher **Troy Bess** was one of 35,000 educators who had their DonorsChoose.org project funded by Ripple.
 17. For Teacher Appreciation Week, **Hunter Huss High School** chorus teacher **Jacqueline Robinson** was featured in an article on the EducationNC (EdNC) website. The article highlighted her 38 years of service as a teacher.
 18. Principal **Jill Payne** and her school, **Hawks Nest STEAM Academy**, were recognized in the “Best of Gaston 2018” contest sponsored by The Gaston Gazette.
 19. **Catawba Heights Elementary School’s Andrea Noles** was recognized as an outstanding teacher and **Stanley Middle School’s Brylie Chaney** was recognized as an outstanding student by the Gaston County Jaycees. Both honorees received the Distinguished Service Award.

20. **South Point High School** seniors **Jessica Helton** and **Cameron Owensby** achieved perfect scores on the math portion of the SAT.
21. **Page Primary** sponsored a “Pasta for Pennies” fundraiser and collected more than \$7,000 for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.
22. Members of the baseball, softball, and soccer teams at **Bessemer City High School** did their part to bring attention to autism. The teams adopted the “Embrace Differences” theme to show support for students and others with autism.
23. **Ashbrook High School** student **Ashley Valdez Martinez** won third place in the Soy Latino Como Tu (I’m Latino Like You) writing contest.
24. **Megan Addington** of **North Gaston High School** had her artwork selected for display in the north lobby of the N.C. General Assembly’s Legislative Building and in the Department of Public Instruction building in Raleigh.
25. **North Gaston High School** hosted the Gaston County Special Olympics Spring Games. The event involved students from across Gaston County and provided plenty of friendly competition with lots of fun and excitement.
26. The Dallas Fire Department sponsored an essay contest to encourage students at **Carr Elementary** to write about why their school is the best. The contest winners were treated to breakfast and a ride on a Dallas fire truck. The students also made friends with the firefighters, who became their newest role models.
27. The **Cherryville High School** baseball team advanced to the third round of the state 1-A playoffs.
28. **Cherryville High School** hosted its annual fine arts showcase that featured a student artwork display, band and choral performances, and other activities.
29. **Carr Elementary** principal **Rebekah Duncan** and assistant principal **Thomas Plecnik** helped Jim Burke from the N.C. Cooperative Extension Center with a beekeeping presentation as part of the Harvesting Healthy Youth program.
30. **Webb Street School’s** “Workings of Web” team was selected as a winner in the “Carton 2 Garden Contest,” which is sponsored by Evergreen Packaging with support from KidsGardening.org. The school earned the Health and Nutrition Specialty Prize for its “Climbing Our Way to Success” student gardening project and will receive a \$2,500 prize package to support its gardening efforts.
31. **Webb Street School** hosted its third annual fashion show and raised more than \$23,000 for the school’s inclusive accessible playground project. More than 40 students participated in the event along with professional models and designers from the Charlotte area.
32. Students in the Beta Club at **Holbrook Middle School** organized a dinner to honor school resource officers and their families. The students also led a fundraising effort to provide new uniforms and tactical supplies for officers.
33. **Highland School of Technology** had 69 students to attend the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) Leadership Conference in Greensboro. Students earned top ten placements in the competitive events for outstanding performance in business education, communications, networking concepts, cyber security, and other categories. The school also received the Gold Star Chapter of Merit distinction for the sixth consecutive year. The award honors the students for their commitment to community service, leadership training, and FBLA activities.
34. **East Gaston High School** and **Forestview High School** were part of the Redesign Fashion Show sponsored by the Gaston Arts Council and held at Discover You! in Mount Holly. Students were asked to create clothing using a wide array of recycled materials from scrap fabrics and yarn to trash bags.

- Classroom Moment.
- Consider the School Nutrition 2018-2019 Procurement Plan.
- Receive information regarding the Strategic Plan Update.
- Receive information regarding the Career and Technical Education 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.
 - Resolution Authorizing Gaston County Schools to Engage in Electronic Payments.
 - Gaston College Board of Trustees Appointment.
 - Career and Technical Education Local Planning System Grant.
 - Medicaid Administrative Claim (MAC) Participation Agreement.
 - Federal Programs Grants for Professional Development.
 - Modern Teacher Digital Convergence Contract.
 - Stanley Middle School Abatement Contract for Services.
- Superintendent’s Comments.
- Closed Session – Consultation with Attorney, Personnel, and Property.

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