



# GASTON COUNTY SCHOOLS Board Briefs

Gaston County Board of Education ■ Communication Department ■ 943 Osceola Street, Gastonia, NC 28054  
 Telephone: (704) 866-6118 or 866-6117 ■ Fax: (704) 866-6175 ■ Internet: www.gaston.k12.nc.us

The Gaston County Board of Education will hold its regular monthly meeting on Monday, April 10, 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 March 6, 2017 and March 20, 2017 meetings.
- Receive the following Good News for April 2017:

1. **Gaston County Schools** had several students to earn N.C. Student Academy of Sciences and N.C. Science and Engineering Fair awards for their outstanding projects in biology, chemistry, environmental science, and engineering. The student winners were **Jordan Abernathy** from **Belmont Middle School** and **Nikki Hendrix, Alexandra Thomas, Grace LaBue, Julia Short, Andrea Esparza, Alex Klasing, Emily Mobley** and **Rebecca Nixon** from **Stuart W. Cramer High School**.
2. For the third consecutive year, the **Belmont Middle School** Battle of the Books team won the county and regional championships and will compete for the state title in May. Team members are **Catherine Armstrong, Riley Bradley, Simran Chahil, Lydia Crawford, Matthew Dalton, Will Durham, Meghan Kimbirl, Abigail Miss, Grace Nehring, Asher Neumann, Joseph Norris** and **Emily Rollins**. The coaches are **Linda Cathcart** and **Angie Alexander**.
3. The following teachers earned National Board Certification in 2016-2017: **Susan Brittain, Catawba Heights Elementary; Jessica Harris, Highland School of Technology; Matthew Higgs, Ashbrook High School; Elizabeth Leonard, North Gaston High School; Kristy Newton, Brookside Elementary; and Dara Presnell, Brookside Elementary**. Additionally, 25 educators received their 10-year renewal of National Board Certification. They were honored during the National Board Certified Teachers Reception on March 28.
4. More than 2,350 middle school students were given an opportunity to explore future career possibilities during Students@Work Day, a partnership between **Gaston County Schools** and the Gaston Regional Chamber. Each of the county’s 11 middle schools was paired with an area business or organization, and all eighth grade students had the opportunity to tour the facilities, hear from business representatives and community leaders, and discuss career options.
5. The five finalists for **Gaston County Schools** Assistant Principal of the Year are **Mitch Allen, South Point High; Todd Goff, Belmont Central Elementary; Donna Kelly, Rankin Elementary; Allison Rhyne, Costner Elementary; and Matt Rikard, Brookside Elementary**.
6. The five finalists for **Gaston County Schools** Central Office Administrator of the Year are **Scott Cassell, Accountability; Bessie Harvey, Facilities/Maintenance; Patricia Pruitt, Technology; Celeste Sadler, Academics; and Valerie Yatko, Business and Community Partnerships**.
7. **Yeva Hall-Williamson** of **East Gaston High School** was named the Gaston County School Counselor of the Year, and **Laura Long** of **Highland School of Technology** was named the Gaston County School Library Media Coordinator of the Year.
8. **Tryon Elementary** third grader **Brayden Moss** won the “Proudest Kid in Gaston County” essay contest sponsored by Gaston Together, **Gaston County Schools** and the Gaston County Education Foundation.
9. **Bessemer City High School** sophomore **Haleigh Guenther** received the N.C. High School Athletic Association’s (NCHSAA) Performance of the Week Award. She managed 20 strikeouts in a game, which is a school record for a Bessemer City softball pitcher and ranks her seventh on the all-time NCHSAA list.
10. **The Bessemer City High School** band participated in the Music Performance Adjudication (MPA) program and earned superior ratings.
11. The following schools earned top honors in the Battle of the Books competition. The East Division winners were **W.A. Bess Elementary**, first place; **Pinewood Elementary**, second place; **Belmont Central Elementary**, third place; and **Kiser Elementary**, fourth place. The West Division winners were **North Belmont Elementary**, first place; **W.B. Beam Intermediate**, second place; **McAdenville Elementary**, third place; and **Brookside Elementary**, fourth place.
12. The following schools earned top honors in the Math Masters competition. The East Division winners were **Belmont Central Elementary**, first place; **Costner Elementary**, second place; **Hawks Nest STEAM Academy**, third place; and **New Hope Elementary**, fourth place. The West Division winners were **Woodhill Elementary**, first place; **H.H. Beam Elementary**, second place; **Brookside Elementary**, third place; and **Lingerfeldt Elementary**, fourth place.
13. **Belmont Middle School** captured first place in the Math Elite countywide competition. **Cramerton Middle** placed second and **Southwest Middle** took third place.
14. **Cherryville High School** baseball coach **Scott Heavner** was named the Coach of the Year by the National Federation of State High School Associations. Heavner’s team won the 2016 1A state baseball championship.
15. **Holbrook Middle** and **W.C. Friday Middle** students participated in a Career Day program coordinated by the school counselors. More than 75 professionals and business owners discussed job opportunities with the students.
16. Students from **Ashbrook** and **Forestview** high schools earned scholarships to participate in an educational summer trip to Gotha, Germany, which is Gastonia’s sister city. The German Language and Culture Foundation donated \$12,500 to fund the study abroad experience. Students earning scholarships are **Christopher Zinna, Loxley Motes, Kevin Baker, Kaitlyn Hoffman, Luke Shuler, Josh Forbes, Caroline Cabe, Caroline Swaim, Jack Eisenhuth** and **Madelyn Brooks**.
17. **Hunter Huss High School** won the “Doughnut Challenge” used to promote the Manufacturing and Career Expo at Gaston College. The Krispy Kreme cruiser was at the school to deliver doughnuts to students as they arrived for the day.
18. **Carr Elementary** hosted “Family Science Night” and had more than 200 students and parents attend the program. Students from the **Gaston Early College High School** and volunteers from Duke Energy set up hands-on science stations for the children to enjoy.
19. **Forestview High School** in partnership with the PBS NewsHour Student Reporting Labs program produced a series called “New Americans.” The video features **Karol Rodriguez**, a 2016 **Forestview High School** graduate; English as a Second Language (ESL) coordinator **Ana Matthews-Barreto**; and **Juan Barreto**, a school mentor. The segment was produced by students **Miranda Crowley, Brandon Revis, Kyle Ring, Ellen Smykowski** and **Ashley Sparrow**. Media specialist **Melissa Heilig** instructed the students and led the school’s participation.

20. **Forestview High School** senior **Maren East** received the Wayne F. Shovelin Scholarship, which is a four-year scholarship valued at \$80,000.
21. **Forestview High School** senior **Summer Glisson** won the President's Volunteer Service Award, which was presented during the Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program.
22. **Rankin Elementary School** held its annual Read-A-Thon and challenged the students to raise \$8,000 and spend as much time as they could reading. In addition to exceeding the fundraising goal, the students totaled more than 400,000 minutes of reading during the week-long event. The students did what they were so supposed to do, which meant principal **Kristin Kiser** and assistant principal **Donna Kelly** had to make good on their promise. They spent some time on the school's roof dressed in funny costumes.
23. The following middle school bands participated in the Music Performance Adjudication (MPA) Festival at Wingate University: **Belmont Middle**, excellent rating; **Bessemer City Middle**; excellent rating; **Chavis Middle**, excellent rating; **Cramerton Middle**, excellent rating; **Friday Middle**, superior rating; and **Holbrook Middle**, superior and excellent ratings.
24. Fourth grade students at **Costner Elementary** and fifth grade students **New Hope Elementary** participated in their school's wax museum program. The students dressed up as historical and famous people and shared information about the people they portrayed.
25. **Gardner Park Elementary** participated in the "Hands Around Our School" fundraiser for Holy Angels and collected \$2,196.
26. The "Do the Right Thing" award winners for March were **Mia Atkins, W.A. Bess Elementary**; **Payton Jacobs, Cramerton Middle**; and **Bobby Lang, Webb Street School**.
27. Students from **H.H. Beam Elementary, Mount Holly Middle, and East Gaston High School** earned top awards in the Arbor Day poster contest sponsored by Keep Gastonia Beautiful. From **H.H. Beam Elementary, Christopher Kease** earned first place, **Emily Pantoja** earned third place, and **Mackenzie Eaker, Addy Tran, and Miley Hill** received an honorable mention. From **Mount Holly Middle, Taylor Auten** earned first place, **Hunter Peach** earned second place, and **Aaya Asmart** received an honorable mention. From **East Gaston, Austin Dean** earned first place, **Melissa Schleicher**, earned second place, and **Kindyll Killian and Elizabeth Burleson** received an honorable mention.
28. **Chapel Grove Elementary** sponsored a "Jump Rope for Heart" fundraiser and collected \$2,222.82 for the American Heart Association.
29. Through an effort to support the community and promote the importance of community service, the **North Belmont Elementary** Bible club raised \$414.21 for Holy Angels.
30. During a recent educational trip to Washington, D.C., eighth grade students at **Cramerton Middle School** had an opportunity to have their picture taken with Congressman Patrick McHenry. The students met the congressman while touring the U.S. Capitol.
31. The **Gaston Early College High School** celebrated National Early College Week, April 3-7. The observance gave students, teachers, and staff an opportunity to bring attention to the Early College and its challenging and exciting academic and extracurricular programs.
32. **Gaston Early College High School** juniors **Cynthia Garcia** and **Kyra Rhyne** were inducted into the Gamma Beta Phi Honor Society at Gaston College. The honor recognizes them for their outstanding academic achievement in college-level classes.
33. The **Gaston Early College High School** hosted **Gaston County Schools'** annual College Expo on April 1. The Expo gave students and their parents an opportunity to meet with college representatives, ask questions, receive information about scholarships and financial aid, and attend a series of sessions.
34. Students at **Pinewood Elementary** enjoyed a visit from Miss Mount Holly's Outstanding Teen Chloe Clary. She talked to the students about kindness and friendship and what it is like to be a pageant queen and involved in community service.
35. As part of National Children's Dental Health Month, the HOSA club at the **Highland School of Technology** collected 2,224 oral care products such as toothbrushes, toothpaste and dental floss and distributed the items to homeless shelters, elementary schools, and nonprofit organizations.
36. **Gaston County Schools** had several school groups and PTO organizations to participate in the annual Community Foundation Run in downtown Gastonia. Sponsored by the Community Foundation of Gaston County, the event featured a 5K run, 2K fun walk, and other activities to help non-profit organizations raise money.

- Classroom Moment.
- Receive information regarding Latin Honors.
- Consider the Math Resources Renewal.
- Receive information regarding the 2017-2018 Superintendent's Budget Request.
- Receive information regarding the Calendar 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.
- Superintendent's Comments.
- Closed Session – Personnel and Property.

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