



# 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, April 20, 2020 at 3:00 p.m. in a virtual setting using the Zoom video conferencing platform. 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 16, 2020 and March 31, 2020 meetings.
  - Receive the following Good News for April 2020:
1. Eight high school seniors won the People Helping People Scholarship presented by the State Employees Credit Union Foundation: **Shane Fogarty, Gaston Early College; Olivia Hedrick, Stuart W. Cramer; Delaney Herron, Hunter Huss; Kaitlynn Mesimer, East Gaston; Emma Rayfield, Highland; Sophia Jurs, Forestview; Avery Walker, Cherryville; and John Warren, South Point.** 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.
  2. **Hilary Lopp** of **W.B. Beam Intermediate, Cherryville Elementary, and Cherryville High** was named the School Nurse of the Year, **Beryl Miller** of **Bessemer City Middle and Sadler Elementary** was named the School Social Worker of the Year, and **Kathryn Watts** of **Southwest Middle School** was named the School Counselor of the Year.
  3. **Dr. Ami Parker**, director of counseling services for **Gaston County Schools** and the N.C. School Counselor Association’s president-elect, was a presenter for the N.C. Child Well-Being Transformation Council. She shared about the school counseling role and the effects of the Every Students Succeeds Act (ESSA) foster children legislation.
  4. The **Ashbrook High School** little free library has been stocked with food for those who find themselves in need. Science teacher **Trent Sims** organized the effort.
  5. **Ashbrook High School** held the Mr. Ashbrook Pageant on March 7, and the event raised more than \$6,500 for Cancer Services of Gaston County and Gaston Hospice. The theme was Heroes of Hope. **Layne Maxwell** was named Mr. Ashbrook 2020, and teacher **Jean Miller** directed the pageant.
  6. The **Ashbrook High School** marching band was part of a community effort to help Gaston County citizens in need. The band members donated 18 cases of water and food for supply bags that were distributed by Myers Memorial United Methodist Church.
  7. **Ashbrook High School** sisters **Natalie Reed** and **Rachel Reed** collected items and made packages for the Meals on Wheels program.
  8. **H.H. Beam Elementary** first grader **Olivia Royster** sold more than \$1,100 worth of Krispy Kreme doughnuts for the school fundraiser.
  9. **H.H. Beam Elementary** got help from Destiny Church to distribute care packages. Counselors **Tawana Walker** and **Ryan Webster** organized the project.
  10. **Belmont Middle School** science teacher **Jennifer del Castillo** used the school’s 3D printer to make mask clips for healthcare workers.
  11. **John Chavis Middle School** eighth grader **Bailey Dugan** used her sewing skills to make more than 100 handmade masks. She and her mom mailed one shipment of masks and received donated materials to work on a second shipment.
  12. **Cherryville Elementary** media specialist **Melanie Sherrill** and her five children created a free lending library in memory of Nicole Boyer, who was a teacher at the school and loved reading. She was fondly remembered for her love for frogs. Appropriately, the library features a big smiling frog inviting you to borrow a book to read.
  13. **Bessemer City High School** collected more than 1,000 canned food items for the Bessemer City Crisis Center.
  14. **Cherryville High School** student **Chloe Haseldon** and her family made 100 masks for nurses, cafeteria workers, foster care workers, and many others who are helping those in need.
  15. The **Cherryville High School** blessing boxes were restocked thanks to a generous donation from the Cherryville High School Education Foundation.
  16. **Cherryville High School** senior **Payton Huffman** auditioned for the Grades 11-12 N.C. All-State Honors Band at Central Davidson High School and placed first chair in Snare Drum/Auxiliary Percussion out of 14 of the top percussionists in the state. In addition, student **Austin Lackey**, who performs as a member of the Palmetto Indoor Theatre independent percussion group, placed first in the WGI Spartanburg Regional in South Carolina.
  17. **Gaston Early College High School** senior **Shane Fogarty**, who completed the Associate of Engineering program at Gaston College, was accepted to attend N.C. State University’s College of Design.
  18. **Gaston Virtual Academy** seventh grader **Ann-Margaret Sproul** won a \$1,000 creative writing scholarship through the Leyla Beban Young Authors Foundation. Her story will be published in the 2020 edition of “Bluefire.”
  19. **South Point High School** senior **Christian Pinto** was named a QuestBridge Scholar in the Class of 2020. Through the QuestBridge program, he received a full-tuition scholarship to attend Washington and Lee University.
  20. **Stuart W. Cramer High School** senior **Mary Elizabeth Martin** earned a perfect score on the reading portion and a 750 score on the math portion of the SAT. In addition, she earned finalist status from the National Merit Foundation, which recognizes the top one percent of students in the Class of 2020. She is now eligible for a full-ride scholarship to the University of Alabama.
  21. **Stuart W. Cramer High School** alumna **Annalise Harris** received an internship in Brussels, Belgium with an international arts advocacy group. Unfortunately, she had to return home halfway through the internship because of the coronavirus. However, the group was so impressed with her work that she was allowed to continue her internship from North Carolina. Due to the increased needs in the arts sector, she had the opportunity to do more than the typical internship and excelled at it.
  22. During this time of remote learning, the STEAM clubs have continued at **Stanley Middle School**. Each Wednesday morning, a different club is featured on the school’s Facebook page, and the teacher demonstrates how students can continue club activities while learning remotely.
  23. **Stanley Middle School** sixth grader **Abigail Stephens** placed first in the Environmental Science category at the N.C. Student Academy of Science Fair. She met with the judges through a Zoom conference call. Abigail’s family raises sheep, and her project was titled “What type of container best preserves sheep feed?” **Diana Baxter** is the school’s science fair coordinator.

24. **North Gaston High School** students **Colton Ray** and **Dylan Roddey** were hired as full-time employees after completing an internship with GSM Services.
25. **Sadler Elementary** school counselor **Tim Hardin** presented a session at the Social Emotional Learning Forum in Raleigh on March 10. The event was hosted by the National Committee for Children.
26. **Sadler Elementary** students raised \$2,200 during the “Pennies for Patients” campaign for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. **Lea McCoig’s** fourth grade class raised the most money and received lunch from Olive Garden.
27. **Tryon Elementary** was featured in an article by the Milken Foundation about the school staff’s community responsiveness during the coronavirus pandemic.
28. **Webb Street School** hosted its fifth annual Art of Fashion Show and raised more than \$17,000 for the school’s gymnasium renovation. More than 50 students participated in the event as models along with professional models and designers from the Charlotte area. This year’s theme was “Night Circus.”
29. **Woodhill Elementary** students sponsored a canned food drive and contributed 356 cans to the Community in Schools pantry. In addition, the Women Optimizing Wellness (WOW) group, which is a part of the CaroMont Health Foundation, sponsored a water bottle challenge at the school. All students and staff received a water bottle and had the opportunity to be eligible for incentives.
30. **York Chester Middle School** media specialist **Faith Huff** was named the School Media Specialist of the Year. She was featured in a recent Gaston Gazette article that focused on her use of Instagram to livestream her storytime to students.
31. **Pinewood Elementary** fifth grade teacher **Rebecca O’Byron** sewed 80 face masks for Atrium Health.
32. **Pinewood Elementary** first grade teacher **Lexi Crosby** was nominated for the Page and Ed Kizer Beginning Teacher Award, which is presented by the UNC-Charlotte Cato College of Education.
33. **Pinewood Elementary** fourth grade teacher **Darryl Kieffer** used his stay-at-home time to build new picnic tables for the school’s courtyard.
34. **Pinewood Elementary’s** “Pinewood Paints” event on March 5 raised more than \$1,800 for arts education materials. Families painted ceiling tiles to decorate the school hallways.
35. Every family at **Pinewood Elementary** received a copy of “Stink and the Incredible Super-Galactic Jawbreaker” as part of the school’s “One Book, One School, One Community” reading campaign. Guest readers from Mount Holly businesses read to the students and their parents each evening via Facebook, and students worked as a class to answer higher-order thinking questions about the book.

- Classroom Moment.
- Consider the Teacher Appreciation Week Proclamation.
- Consider the National School Library Month Proclamation.
- Receive information regarding the Exceptional Children and School Choice Instructional Resources Update.
- Consider the Innovative Partnership Grant (IPG) for Warlick Academy.
- Consider the Gaston Early College High School 2020-2021 Calendar.
- Consider the 2020-2021 Gaston County Schools Budget Request.
- 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.
  - W.B. Beam Intermediate School Roof Replacement.
  - Page Primary School Roof Replacement.
  - North Gaston High School Roof Repair and Replacement.
  - New Hope Elementary School Life Safety – Replacement of Doors and Hardware.
  - Carr Elementary School Life Safety – Replacement of Doors and Hardware.
  - North Gaston High School Elevator Modification.
  - East Gaston High School Elevator Modification.
  - Activity Bus Purchases.
  - ChromeBook Purchase.
  - Contracts:

Assessing Math Concepts (AMC)	Curriculum Associates
Edgenuity	IXL
SchoolNet	TE21
Turnitin	Verso
Gizmos	Heinemann Workshop Model Professional Development
Phonics Unit of Study	Discovery Education
Educators Handbook	Decodable Text
- Superintendent’s Comments.
- Closed Session – Personnel and Consultation with Attorney.

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