



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, August 20, 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 June 18, 2018, July 9, 2018, and July 23, 2018 meetings.
 - Receive the following Good News for August 2018:
1. **Gaston County Schools** conducted its “Stuff That Bus!” school supplies collection on August 9 at Office Depot in Gastonia. More than 4,400 items were collected during the event, which is part of the annual “School Tools” drive. Cheerleaders, drum lines, and special guests participated in the pep rally-like event to encourage people to donate supplies. Now in its third year, “Stuff That Bus!” is conducted in partnership with Office Depot and the United Way of Gaston County.
 2. More than 1,100 teachers and school administrators attended the **Gaston County Schools** Teaching and Learning Conference on August 6-7 at Gaston College. The conference featured keynote speakers, professional development seminars, and other activities designed to prepare teachers and others for the upcoming school year.
 3. A group of elementary, middle school, and high school teachers participated in the “Educators in the Workplace” summer program, which is a partnership among **Gaston County Schools**, the Gaston Regional Chamber, and local businesses. Participants were given an opportunity to learn more about the business community through visits to eight companies/organizations: American & Efird, PSNC Energy, GSM Services, Lanxess, Beam Construction, Gaston County Sheriff’s Office, Pharr Yarns, and PNC Bank.
 4. **Gaston County Schools** held two summer camps to provide academic enrichment opportunities for students: a STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, and math) program called the Summer Imaginarium Camp at **Cramerton Middle School** and a College Prep camp at **Ashbrook High School**. The camps were in addition to the Camp Achieve summer reading program that was conducted at seven school locations.
 5. **Cramerton Middle School** teacher **Britnee Reid** was one of 224 teachers from across the country to be selected for the Honeywell Educators at Space Academy program. She participated in 45 hours of classroom, laboratory, and training time during the five-day program, which focused on coding, science, and space exploration exercises, including astronaut training simulations. The program showcased new ideas, activities, and concepts for teachers to incorporate into their classrooms that help inspire students to seek out careers and interests in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and math.
 6. **Springfield Elementary** first grader **Emmett Medici** is featured in a new promotional campaign for Levine Children’s Hospital in Charlotte. His mom, **Jennifer Medici**, is a teacher at **Stanley Middle School**.
 7. The **Holbrook Middle** cheerleaders helped to celebrate the grand re-opening of McDonald’s at Franklin Square in Gastonia. As a thank-you gesture, McDonald’s gave \$250 to the cheerleading squad.
 8. **Gaston County Schools’** Department for Exceptional Children created a sensory walk for students with visual impairments. The sensory walk involved the children experiencing different textures and terrain and describing what they felt with their feet and/or hands. Klingspor Abrasives donated the materials and offered to provide additional materials to create more sensory walks for children with special needs.
 9. **Michelle Ellis**, a science teacher at **Hunter Huss High School**, was selected to participate in the Kenan Fellows Program for Teacher Leadership, which is the largest STEM-focused (science, technology, engineering, and math) teacher leadership program in North Carolina.
 10. **Scott Harrill**, athletic director at **Cherryville High School**, was recognized by the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (NIAAA) as a Certified Athletic Administrator (CAA). The voluntary certification process includes a thorough evaluation of a candidate’s educational background, experience, and professional contributions as well as a rigorous, comprehensive written exam.
 11. Every year, **Gaston County Schools** awards the Paul F. Fuller Scholarship to one deserving senior who has been a part of the district’s mentoring program. The 2018 winner is **Tyler Zonin** of **North Gaston High School**, who will use the money to study emergency medical care at Western Carolina University. For the first time, three trades and technical training scholarships (also named for Paul F. Fuller) were awarded through a partnership with the Noon Optimist Club of Gastonia. The trades and technical training scholarship winners are **Rodney Brooks** and **Angelica Huffstetler** of **Hunter Huss High School** and **Evan Summerlin** of **East Gaston High School**.

12. The eighth annual “Back to School Bash” was held on August 4 at **Woodhill Elementary School**. The community program offered health assessments and screenings for children as well as appointments for vaccinations. Children who completed the screening process received a book bag filled with school supplies.
13. **York Chester Middle School** is taking advantage of an outdoor adventure program called the “Grandfather Mountain Challenge” to help students learn about teamwork, building confidence and character, overcoming obstacles, experiencing a sense of personal accomplishment, and more. The school participated in the program last year for the first time and hopes to continue in the new school year ahead. What the students learn from the program will help them to achieve more in the classroom and in life.
14. To celebrate the start of a new school year, the staff from **Sherwood Elementary** boarded a bus and distributed 1,000 new and used books to families living in neighborhoods near the school. The “Book Bus” also provided dual-language books for Spanish-speaking students. In addition to teachers, administrators, and parents from the school, members of the **Ashbrook High** girls’ volleyball team, Miss Gastonia’s Outstanding Teen **Emily Miller**, who is a student at **Highland School of Technology**, and Gastonia Mayor Walker Reid went along on the “Book Bus” to greet children and parents at each stop.

- New Schools Construction Update.
- Summer Projects Update.
- Insurance Update.
- Consider Out-of-County Tuition.
- Receive information regarding Awarded Grants.
- Consider the Replacement of Network Equipment.
- Back-to-School Update.
- Consider 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 Transfers.
 - Construction/Repair Change Orders.
 - Sewer Easement.
 - Purchase/Replace Maintenance Truck.
 - Contracts:
 - Specialized Student Transportation.
 - Synovia Solutions Contract Update.
 - Leveled Literacy Intervention Kits for New Title I Schools.
 - Math Resource Renewals.
 - Student Assignment Management System.
 - Community Residential Funding through the Department of Public Instruction.
 - Blackboard Renewal Contract.
- Superintendent’s Comments.
- Closed Session – Consultation with Attorney and Personnel.

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