



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, December 19, 2016, 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 November 14, 2016 meeting.
- Receive the following Good News for December 2016:

1. **Chris Turner**, a senior at **Bessemer City High School**, earned a full scholarship to attend Brown University. The scholarship is valued at more than \$270,000. He plans to study engineering or physics.
2. **Ashbrook High School** senior **Manolito “Lito” Mantecon II** was honored as a 2016 Carolina Panthers Community Captain. The program identifies outstanding student-athletes who are also involved in community service. He was one of 10 students from across the Carolinas who were recognized at a Panthers game, and the Panthers gave a \$500 grant to the school’s athletic program in Mantecon’s honor.
3. **H.H. Beam Elementary** student **Destiny Taylor** and **Chapel Grove Elementary** student **Skyler Chastaine** were honored by the Gaston County Police Department’s K9 Unit for helping to apprehend a felon. The girls provided the officers with information that helped them locate the suspect. The department gave certificates and McDonald’s gift cards to the students.
4. **Gaston County Schools** instructional technology facilitators **Sandra Engbarth**, **Aundrea Jenkins** and **Lisa Montgomery**, and **Mount Holly Middle School** teacher **Heather Wilson** were selected to participate in the Digital Leaders Coaches Network, an eight-month professional learning program. They will join 194 other digital learning leaders from across the state to study strategies for education technology. The program is conducted by the Friday Institute for Educational Innovation at N.C. State University.
5. Students at **W.B. Beam Intermediate** raised more than \$1,800 for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. By exceeding their \$1,500 challenge, they also earned the right to duct tape principal **Chad Hovis** to the cafeteria wall. **Kemper Harris**, a fifth grade student, raised the most money.
6. The **W.A. Bess Elementary** Girls on the Run team held a community service project to assist “Emily’s Pack of Hope.” The students provided backpacks of necessities and comfort items for children transitioning to foster homes.
7. The **Bessemer City High School** senior baseball players visited **Bessemer City Primary** to read to first grade students.
8. **Carr Elementary** fourth grade teacher **Melissa Hawkins** received a Bright Ideas Grant for \$866 from Rutherford Electric. Her grant titled “Bookworms to Butterflies” will fund a book club for students.
9. Students at **John Chavis Middle School** collected 184 shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child and \$952 for Samaritan’s Purse. In addition, members of the student council and Chavis CARES group volunteered at the Operation Christmas Child Processing Center in Charlotte where they inspected and packed boxes to ensure safe delivery of gifts to children all over the world. School counselor **Elishia Oliver** organized the effort.
10. **John Chavis Middle School** honored **Natalie Poston**, an eighth grade language arts teacher, as the October Teacher of the Month. Students of the Month were **Jia Patel**, **Haley Cook**, **Layla Sawyer**, **Scott Wright**, **Bryan Canter**, **Alayna Carpenter**, **Quinlan Sanford**, **Gracie Holland** and **Shane Dorsey**.
11. The **Cherryville High School** cheerleading teams won the N.C. High School Athletic Association’s Small Division II Varsity and Junior Varsity state championships.
12. The **Cherryville High School** band earned several awards in a competition at Fred T. Foard High School. The Marching Ironmen earned second place in color guard, first place in marching and movement, first place in Class 2A, and grand champion in Class 1A-2A.
13. **April Moore**, a student at **Stuart W. Cramer High School**, cooked and donated a Thanksgiving meal for a Bessemer City family in need.
14. **Cramerton Middle School** students **Reading Blount** and **Edwin Gore** were selected for the North Carolina Middle School Honors Chorus. Of 890 students who auditioned, only 152 were selected for the honors chorus.
15. The student council at **Cramerton Middle School** collected more than 3,800 personal care items and toiletries for flood victims in eastern North Carolina. The homerooms collecting the most items were **Joy Smith**, eighth grade, **Lisa Dent**, seventh grade, and **Brooke Richardson**, sixth grade.
16. The **Cramerton Middle School** chorus and handbells group performed a fundraising concert at Sweet Frog Premium Yogurt in Gastonia. The company donated 20 percent of the proceeds to the school. Choral director **Patty Fayssox** coordinated the event.
17. Fifth grader **Kenneth Gonzalez** represented **Gardner Park Elementary** at the UNC vs. Citadel football game as an Academic All-Star. The Academic All-Stars were selected for their school achievement and outstanding character.
18. **Gardner Park Elementary** held its annual food drive and collected 1,250 canned goods for the Salvation Army.
19. **Gaston Early College High School** freshman **Kayla Grigg** donated Christmas presents to students at **Carr Elementary School**. She volunteers at the school every other Friday through the Early College’s service learning program.
20. Students at **Highland School of Technology** held the sixth annual “Winter Warmth Drive” to collect warm clothing and blankets. They donated the items to Gaston County shelters and the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Gaston.
21. Thirteen students from **Highland School of Technology’s** HOSA chapter (Health Occupations Students of America) placed in the top 10 in their events at the District 6 regional competition. These students have qualified to compete at the HOSA state conference in March. **Danielle Rondinelli** earned first place in the prepared speaking category. Second place winners were **Savannah Duncan** (prepared speaking), **Alexandra Hatsios** (medical photography), and **Alex Ninyeh** (extemporaneous writing). Third place winners were **Anna Bess** and **Haley Euler** (CPR/First Aid), and **Vrinda Desai** (medical terminology). Other top 10 winners were **Carleigh Ballard** (researched persuasive speaking), **Madison Gilroy** and **Taylor Helms** (health career display), **Priyanj Patel** (medical math), and **Madelyn Daggerhart** (nursing assisting).
22. The **Highland School of Technology** SAVE group was the featured chapter in the National SAVE (Students Against Violence Everywhere) newsletter. The group was highlighted for its efforts to promote compassion in the school, encourage new friendships, and serve the community.
23. **Highland School of Technology’s** HOSA chapter collected 129 gift boxes to be donated to children in need through Operation Christmas Child.

24. Students at **Holbrook Middle School** teamed up with Speed Street Collision Center and collected money to purchase grocery store gift cards for families in need.
25. **McAdenville Elementary** second graders were visited by author and former Gaston County teacher Lola Brooks. She shared her book “Wonderfully and Beautifully Made” with the students and talked with them about the importance of self-esteem and the work of a published author.
26. The **McAdenville Elementary** robotics team, “Team Dynamite,” qualified to compete in the North Carolina First Lego League State Championship.
27. The **North Belmont Elementary** safety patrol and Girls on the Run team held a joint campaign to collect cans and other non-perishable items for S.O.C.K.S, a crisis assistance organization in Belmont. The students collected 1,434 items and more than 1,000 pounds of food.
28. **North Gaston High School** was one of only 48 schools in the United States where both the girls’ and boys’ soccer teams received the Team Academic Award from the National Soccer Coaches Association of America. To qualify for the award, the team must have a minimum grade point average of 3.25 for the entire academic year. North Gaston was one of only four schools in North Carolina to earn the honor.
29. **North Gaston High School** had 36 students inducted into the National Technical Honor Society. **Caitlyn Herrin** served as the school’s candle lighter during the ceremony.
30. **Pinewood Elementary** elected the following students to the student council: **Chandler Burelson, Maddie Carter, Noah Empson, Daniel Kale, Ava Kipp, Bella Lee, Bree Marr, Tucker Payton, Reese Petty, Sajuka Riley, Madison Rosebalm, Patience Shaw, Morgan Sherill, Logan Teno and Cailyn Thompson.**
31. **Pleasant Ridge Elementary** third graders enjoyed a visit from **Moe Neal**, a graduate of Gaston County Schools and football player at Syracuse University. Neal spoke about the importance of making good decisions and working hard to achieve goals. Teacher **Katie Tesoriero** coordinated the visit.
32. **Robinson Elementary** held two special programs for the community. A PTO Veterans Day program honored local veterans and included songs by the students, a guest speaker, and a video presentation. The school also hosted a “Makerspace Showcase” to introduce families to the school’s new makerspace, which was developed by teachers **Tammy Holland** and **Amber Litfin** and funded by a grant from the Gaston County Education Foundation.
33. **Sadler Elementary** hosted “Hispanic Night” for students and families with a dinner, a pinata for the children, and a musical performance of Hispanic holiday songs. More than 175 parents, students, and faculty attended the program.
34. **Sadler Elementary** and **Pleasant Ridge Elementary** received donations from the Second Harvest Food Bank and its “Santa Express” program. Every child in each school was given a bag of apples.
35. The **South Point High School** chamber choir performed the national anthem for a Charlotte Hornets game. Choral director **Melissa Glover** coordinated the performance.
36. **Stanley Middle School** collected 6,465 items to donate to the local food pantry.
37. **Webb Street School** held a “One Book, One School” program with every student, teacher, and staff member receiving a copy of “The BFG” by Roald Dahl. The program is designed to give students the opportunity to have discussions about the book with anyone in the school.
38. **Webb Street School** hosted a “Webb Street 101” program with representatives from 25 service agencies to let families know about school and community resources available to them.
39. **Woodhill Elementary** and **Lingerfeldt Elementary** received donations of books from Usborne Books & More consultants Kathleen Rader and Jessica Phillips. They were able to provide 867 books for the schools.
40. The **Gaston County Schools** all-county marching band participated in Gastonia’s Veterans Day parade. There were 26 color guard members and 118 band students representing each high school who performed in the parade.

- Classroom Moment.
- Consider the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR).
- Receive information regarding the Pre-Kindergarten Arts Opportunity.
- Consider the Grant Opportunity.
- Consider the Boiler and Building Pump Replacement at Ashbrook High School.
- 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 Budget Transfers.
 - Construction/Repair Change Orders.
 - Contracts.
- Superintendent’s Comments.
- Closed Session – Personnel.

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