

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, December 16, 2019, 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 18, 2019 meeting.
 - Receive the following Good News for December 2019:
1. **Gaston County Board of Education** member **Dot Guthrie** received the School Board Member Leadership Award presented by the N.C. School Boards Association (NCSBA). Board member **Dot Cherry** was chosen to serve on the NCSBA’s Board of Directors.
 2. **Gaston County Board of Education** member **Jeff Ramsey** received the Lifetime Citizen Award from the Town of Cramerton. He also was selected to serve as the honorary grand marshal for the Cramerton Christmas parade.
 3. The Gastonia Parish Nurse Ministry worked with First Presbyterian Church of Gastonia and First United Methodist Church of Gastonia to raise funds and purchase coats for all students at **Sherwood Elementary**. In addition, 147 students at **York Chester Middle School** received a new coat. The combined efforts of First United Methodist Church and First Presbyterian Church raised more than \$16,000 to purchase coats for some 800 students in the community.
 4. The November “Do the Right Thing” award winners were **Jada Stevens** of **Cherryville High School**; **Destiny Williams** of **York Chester Middle School**; and **Jordin Lopez** of **Pleasant Ridge Elementary**. The program recognizes students for acts of kindness and “doing the right thing.”
 5. **Ashbrook High School** senior **Jared Hernandez** was named the top goalkeeper for the Big South 3-A Conference. In addition, **Daniel Hines**, **Victor Tlapa**, **Rene Morales**, and **Bailey Wilcox** were named to the all-conference soccer team.
 6. During the school’s annual holiday food drive, **W.B. Beam Intermediate** collected 2,463 items and donated them to Cherryville Area Ministries and Jesus Servant Ministries. In addition, students and staff collected gloves, scarves, toboggans, and blankets to support **Cherryville High School** student **Noah Abernethy’s** service project.
 7. **Stuart W. Cramer High School** teacher **Chuck Stowe** was named the recipient of the 2019 North Carolina Theatre Conference (NCTC) K-12 Theatre Arts Educator Award. The award is presented by the NCTC Board of Directors to an individual who has held leadership roles in the community and demonstrated artistic, professional, and educational excellence.
 8. **Highland School of Technology** student **Danielle Rondinelli** was selected as one of the top five CTE (Career and Technical Education) scholars in the state.
 9. The **Cherryville High School** varsity and junior varsity cheerleaders earned first place at the 2019 North Carolina High School Athletic Association (NCHSAA) Cheerleading Invitational Championship. The squads earned top awards in the Small Division II category. This is the sixth NCHSAA state title for coach Wendy Holt and her cheerleaders.
 10. To bring attention to World Mental Health Awareness Week, **Belmont Middle School** conducted a door decorating contest.
 11. **Belmont Middle School** collected more than 2,200 canned goods for the Belmont Community Organization. The collection drive was organized by the school’s Beta Club.
 12. **Belmont Middle School** students in **Amy Covington’s** eighth grade class made holiday cards for military service members.
 13. Students at **Carr Elementary** and **Chapel Grove Elementary** enjoyed a visit from “Hugo the Hornet,” who brought the Charlotte Hornets’ book bus to each school and gave a presentation about the importance of reading.
 14. For the second year, **Bessemer City High School** student **John McAlister** auditioned and was accepted for the Charlotte Master Chorale’s young artist in residence program.
 15. To support its Technology and Industrial Engineering Academy, **Bessemer City High School** hosted a program by parent Robin Deal, who works for Hubbard Hall, a family-owned chemical company. The program focused on how the company uses water in its operations and gave the students an opportunity to learn about careers in the chemical field.
 16. **Bessemer City High School** students in the Health Science II class presented their portfolio during a program at the Kiser Senior Center. The students also offered blood pressure checks for attendees.
 17. **Bessemer City High School** hosted an ACT Kickoff Day with ACT prep, Pre-ACT, and WorkKeys activities that highlighted test-taking strategies. The day included alumni speaking to the freshman class about being successful.
 18. **Bessemer City High School** senior **Kiazia Degree** won the 2019 Heisman High School Scholarship Award.
 19. **Carr Elementary** held its Student Recognition Day for the first nine weeks. This program was led entirely by students, and all grade levels performed the “Leader in Me” song. In addition, third grade students presented a “Leader in Me” program for the school’s PTO. Students took on various leadership roles such as greeting parents and guests, working at the sign-in table, and sharing announcements or having speaking parts during the program.
 20. Each month at the Dallas Board of Alderman meeting, a **Carr Elementary** student from each grade level is recognized as the Student of the Month. The students chosen for the honor receive a certificate and a Carr Student of the Month yard sign to display.
 21. **Carr Elementary** hosted approximately 250 parents and guests for its Thanksgiving meal. In addition, the school chorus performed at the Carols on the Square event in Dallas.
 22. **Carr Elementary** held an afterschool STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) club program and had more than 120 third, fourth, and fifth grade students to participate. The students were able to learn about drones, coding, art, and robotics.
 23. Students at **John Chavis Middle School** collected 98 shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. 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 around the world. School counselor **Elishia Oliver** organized the effort.
 24. **Cramerton Middle School** collected 1,500 canned goods for local food pantries.
 25. **East Gaston High School** soccer players **Carter Beck**, **Diego Rodriguez**, and **Deshaun Corry** were named to the Southwestern 2-A all-conference team.
 26. **East Gaston High School** student **Ariana Stephenson** received an \$8,000 marching band scholarship at the UNC-Charlotte Honors Band Clinic. She was one of seven seniors in the South Central Band District to be awarded the scholarship. In addition, she placed second chair in the district-wide honors band.

27. **East Gaston High School** volleyball coach **Haley Stewart** was selected for the “Thirty Under 30” award, which is presented by the American Volleyball Coaches Association.
28. **Forestview High School** junior **Chris Kurtiak** was named the Big South 3-A Conference Defensive Player of the Year. Teammates **Evan Friday**, **Tyler McMurray**, **Nicholas Shiles**, **Jose Cruz**, and **Anthony Aguilar** were also named to the all-conference soccer team.
29. **Hunter Huss High School** senior **Luis Echevarria** was named the Big South 3-A Conference Offensive Player of the Year. Teammates **Chris Medel** and **Bryan Torres** were also named to the all-conference team. In addition, soccer coach **Fernando Perez** was named Big South 3-A Coach of the Year.
30. **Kiser Elementary** fourth graders were given a tour of the N.C. House of Representatives by Representative John Torbett while visiting Raleigh on December 5.
31. **Kiser Elementary** students collected 400 jars of peanut butter and jelly for the Guardian Ad Litem program to be dispersed to local food pantries.
32. **McAdenville Elementary** kindergarten student **Nathaly Sanchez Reyna** was chosen to “flip the switch” at the annual McAdenville tree lighting ceremony.
33. The **North Gaston High School** Beta Club conducted canned food and clothing drives for local charitable organizations. Additionally, some 50 students and staff toured various historic sites during a trip to Charleston.
34. The **Pinewood Elementary** robotics team placed first in the research presentation category at the First Lego League competition.
35. The **Sadler Elementary** cafeteria staff received a 100 percent sanitation rating. In addition, the school received a \$300 grant from Keep Gastonia Beautiful.
36. **South Point High School** sophomore **Novian Williams** was named the Southwestern 2-A Conference Defensive Player of the Year. In addition, teammates **Eli Fermagalich**, **Jaylen Or**, **Adam King**, and **Ian Davis** were named to the all-conference soccer team. Head coach **Chris Baity** was named Southwestern 2-A Conference Coach of the Year.
37. **South Point High School** placed second and **East Gaston High School** placed fourth in the Division II Medium Varsity category at the N.C. High School Athletic Association’s invitational cheerleading championship.
38. **Springfield Elementary** students and staff raised \$1,000 for the United Way of Gaston County.
39. **Stanley Middle School** students collected almost 2,000 canned goods and non-perishable items for the local food pantry. School counselors **Stephanie Davis** and **Lindsay Atiase** coordinated the collection effort.
40. The **Stanley Middle School** baseball team served as the honorary grand marshal for the Stanley Christmas parade. The team won the 2019 county championship.
41. **Stuart W. Cramer High School** soccer players **Layton Miller**, **Drew Hooks**, **Javier Terrones**, and **Cameron Cook** were named to the Big South 3-A all-conference team.
42. The **York Chester Middle School** jazz band provided entertainment at the first Jingle Bell Gents luncheon sponsored by the United Way of Gaston County. In addition, the band performed at the Gastonia tree lighting ceremony, which was sponsored by Keep Gastonia Beautiful.

- Classroom Moment.
- Operations Committee Report.
- Curriculum and Instruction Committee Report.
- Consider the Acceptance of the June 30, 2019 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report.
- Receive information regarding Parent Resources.
- Receive information regarding Summer Opportunities.
- 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.
 - Fines and Forfeitures Resolution.
 - New Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations – Policy Change.
- Superintendent’s Comments.
- Closed Session – Personnel, School Safety Plan, and Consultation with Attorney.

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