

# 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, February 20, 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 January 13-14, 2017 Board work session/retreat and the January 31, 2017 meeting with the Gaston County Board of Commissioners.
  - Receive the following Good News for January/February 2017:
1. **Gardner Park Elementary** (partnered with Tindol Ford-Subaru) won the “Are You Smarter Than a Gaston County Fifth Grader?” competition. **Woodhill Elementary** earned second place and **Lowell Elementary** took third place. Sponsored by the Gaston County Education Foundation, “Are You Smarter” is a popular annual event that pairs businesses and organizations with elementary schools in a fun game show format. Proceeds go toward the Ron L. Ensley grants for teachers to fund innovative classroom lessons and projects.
  2. The five finalists for 2017-2018 Gaston County Teacher of the Year are **Amy Daniel, Holbrook Middle; Victoria Holeman, Lingerfeldt Elementary; Mindee Mammano, Stuart W. Cramer High School; Ashley Rimmer, Ashbrook High School; and Heather Scercy, W.C. Friday Middle School.**
  3. The five finalists for 2017-2018 Gaston County Principal of the Year are **Chad Carper, Forestview High School; Amy Holbrook, York Chester Middle; Crystal Houser, W.C. Friday Middle; Denise McLean, Highland School of Technology; and Phyllis Whitworth, Belmont Central Elementary.**
  4. The five finalists for 2017-2018 Gaston County New Teacher of the Year are **Abigale McKinney, Belmont Central Elementary; Kelsey Blanton, Gardner Park Elementary; Megan Eulis, Sherwood Elementary; Andru Lockridge, Stanley Middle; and Erin Wallace, Webb Street School.**
  5. **Board of Education** member **Dot Guthrie** received the 2017 Unity Award during the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day celebration in downtown Gastonia. The award is presented annually to citizens for their outstanding community service to promote unity, cooperation, and understanding across Gaston County.
  6. Superintendent of Schools **W. Jeffrey Booker** was awarded the Paul Harris Fellow by the Gastonia East Rotary Club. It is a tradition for local clubs to support the Rotary International Foundation by giving contributions in honor of community and business leaders and other esteemed citizens like Superintendent Booker who demonstrate outstanding leadership and service.
  7. The “Do the Right Thing” award winners for January were **Jeremiah Perez, Pleasant Ridge Elementary; Rocio Lopez, Mount Holly Middle School; and Chandler Thrift and Sarah Simmons, East Gaston High School.** The awards program recognizes students for outstanding leadership, service, and character.
  8. **Stuart W. Cramer High School** hosted the South Central All-District Band Clinic and Concert, which featured more than 300 outstanding student musicians from across the Charlotte region. The following Gaston County students were chosen for the band: **Issak Gibson, Holbrook Middle; Mercy Le and Sydney Dyer, Cramerton Middle; Alyssa Knott and Lilly Crouch, Mount Holly Middle; Justin Chapman, John Chavis Middle; Sam Evans, Belmont Middle; Alexis Hawkins and Elena Suarez, East Gaston; Chris Schiavoni, Kaitlin Craig, Lathan Birmingham and Kassady Grant, Stuart W. Cramer; Seline Pons, Jackson Peck and Christopher Seay, South Point; Riley Bramwell, Forestview; Amanda Cameron, Highland; Garrett Chitwood, Bessemer City; and Taylor Hope, Cherryville.**
  9. **McAdenville, Rankin, and Robinson** elementary schools participated in the N.C. First Lego League regional robotics competition and qualified to represent Gaston County Schools in the state competition. **Bessemer City Central** and **Pinewood** also participated in the regional competition.
  10. **Gaston County Schools** hosted its annual Mentor Appreciation Luncheon at First A.R.P. Church in Gastonia. More than 100 mentors and school mentor coordinators attended the program, which was intended to recognize and honor the adults who take the time to mentor a child. There are more than 260 people who are actively involved in the mentoring program. First A.R.P. Church, AIS Advanced Imaging Systems (Matt Solomon), and Furlong Financial (Bob Furlong) sponsored the luncheon.
  11. **Sadler Elementary School** counselor **Tim Hardin** was elected to serve as president of the N.C. School Counselor Association.
  12. As part of the Keep Gastonia Beautiful program, the **Hunter Huss High School** “Green Team” adopted Edgefield Avenue in front of the school and pledged to keep the area “clean and green.” The students involved with the “Green Team” take pride in keeping the school grounds and surrounding areas free of litter and debris.
  13. **Hunter Huss High School** received a \$1,000 contribution from BB&T to purchase Chromebook computers for the school’s Career Academy.
  14. Hawks Nest **STEAM Academy** received a \$5,000 Toolbox for Education grant from Lowe’s for the “Covered Outdoor Classroom and Interactive Elements for our School Community” project.
  15. **Matthew Hips** of **Ashbrook High School, Elizabeth Leonard** of **North Gaston High School, and Kristy Newton** of **Brookside Elementary** earned National Board Certification, which is the highest standard for the teaching profession.
  16. **Sherwood Elementary** collected 1,471 non-perishable food items for the Salvation Army. **Tiffany Phillips’** first grade class contributed 517 items to win the schoolwide collection contest.
  17. The **Mount Holly Middle, Cramerton Middle, and North Gaston High School** cafeteria staffs earned a 100 percent sanitation grade.
  18. **Highland School of Technology** took first place in the Mathematical Puzzle Program High School Challenge held at UNC-Charlotte. The program is a team-based mathematical puzzle competition for high school students and rewards players for their problem-solving ability.
  19. **Highland School of Technology** had 31 students to attend the N.C. Beta Club Convention in Greensboro. Eleven of the students earned first, second, or third-place wins in their competition categories to qualify for the National Beta Club Convention in Orlando. The winners were **Priyanj Patel, Ryan Thurston, Caleb Sherman, Jacob Younan, Kristen Caulfield, Teresa Purello, Chloe Browning, Jessica Posa, Jesse Hambrick, David Hamilton and Mikaela Blackwood.** Two students - **Sarah Eagan** and **Mikaela Blackwood** - were winners in the North Carolina-specific U.S. History and Biology competitions.
  20. **Cherryville High School** senior **Austin Treadway** received the Scholar Athlete of the Month award presented by McDonald’s, WOHS radio, and the What’s Up Shopper. He is a member of the school’s football and baseball teams.
  21. **Cherryville High School** conducted a ceremony to dedicate the tennis courts in honor of long-time teacher and coach **Donna Lavery.**
  22. Students at **Southwest Middle School** collected more than 2,000 jars of peanut butter and jelly for the Guardian Ad Litem program and Crisis Assistance Ministry. Students at **Kiser Elementary** and **Pleasant Ridge Elementary** also participated in the collection effort.

23. Students at the following elementary schools celebrated the 100th day of school by dressing as centenarians: **W.A. Bess, Cherryville, Gardner Park, Pleasant Ridge, Pinewood, Robinson, and Sherwood.**
24. Students at **Brookside Elementary** collected \$252 for Relay for Life. Principal **Logan McGuire** and assistant principal **Matt Rikard** each received pies in the face during the school's fundraising celebration.
25. **York Chester Middle School** honored local veterans during a citizenship character education assembly. The **Ashbrook High School JROTC** presented the colors during the program.
26. Students in the LEAP (Leading, Educating, and Preparing) program at **Pleasant Ridge Elementary** presented a drum performance during halftime of a recent basketball game at **Hunter Huss High School.**
27. The **South Point High School** football team won the state 3-A championship with a 16-7 victory over Rocky Mount High School. The game was held on Saturday, December 17 at Wake Forest University.
28. Students in the National Honor Society at **South Point High School** collected more than \$2,400 for the Belmont Community Organization.
29. The **John Chavis Middle School** November Students of the Month were **Kelly Diaz, Ethan Honeyman, Landon Hahn, Kaitlyn Nolen, Jocelyn Queen, Mackenzie Aguilar, Kayley Sparrow, Asia Simmons** and **Seth Russell.** **Ashley Beam**, an eighth grade language arts teacher, was named the school's November Teacher of the Month.
30. The Beta Club at **John Chavis Middle School** held its annual canned food drive in December. With the help of each Advisory class, the school collected 817 items for the Cherryville Area Ministries. The Advisory classes contributing the most items were **Lance Beam's** class, first place; **Robin Blackburn's** class, second place; and **Scott Pervine's** class, third place. Leading the community service project were Beta Club officers **Wyatt Wilson, Izzy Wilson, Addie Seate, Maggie Beam, and Travis Rainwater.**
31. **Gaston County Schools** held the "Pinnacle Smackdown," an event that showcases how teachers use technology in the classroom, at the Rader Staff Development Center. More than 70 educators involved in the Pinnacle Leaders technology program shared helpful tips and information about how to enhance the classroom experience and engage students in learning through the use of computers and other digital devices.
32. The following middle school teams won county championships for the fall season: **Belmont** (football, boys' soccer, and volleyball); **Mount Holly** (softball); **Cramerton** (golf); and **W.C. Friday** (wrestling).
33. **Webb Street School** received a Window of Opportunity grant in the amount of \$1,500 from the NC Beautiful organization to support the school's greenhouse and aquaponics program. Additionally, the school collected more than \$3,700 through its SeedMoney.org online fundraising campaign. The funds will help to provide more hands-on education for students.
34. **Webb Street School** held its annual basketball game with the Gaston County Sheriff's Office. The event provided fun, laughter, and excitement and focused on teamwork and sportsmanship.
35. Students at **Belmont Middle School** participated in a Kindness Challenge and conducted various activities that "put a smile on your face." They wrote "thank you" notes to teachers, custodians, bus drivers, office staff, and others and decorated the hallways with posters that featured quotes about kindness and encouragement.
36. The following students were winners in **Belmont Middle School's** geography bee: **Abigail Lefler**, first place; **Henry Southard**, second place, and **Abby Miss**, third place.
37. At **Pinewood Elementary**, 32 students participated in the student council elections and 15 were chosen to serve as student council members. The school hosted campaign activities, had students to serve as "Secret Service" officers, learned about an actual voting booth on loan from the Gaston County Board of Elections, and used Chromebook computers to mark online ballots for their favorite candidates. School counselor **Donna Hancock** and counseling intern **Yolanda Gray** organized the activities to teach children about the campaign and election processes.
38. **Pinewood Elementary** conducted several activities to help families in need during the holiday season. The student council sponsored a canned food drive for the Mount Holly Community Relief Organization and collected 424 pounds of food. Through partnerships with Berryhill Baptist Church and Finishline Christian Center, the school was able to provide holiday meals for 12 families.
39. Students in **Rebecca O'Bryon's** fourth grade class at **Pinewood Elementary** read the book, "Crenshaw," by Katherine Applegate, which led to their involvement in a community service project. The students collected non-food items for the Mount Holly Community Relief Organization to help people in need.
40. **Pinewood Elementary** conducted a holiday design contest for students and three designs were chosen. The cards were delivered to Mount Holly mayor Bryan Hough, fire chief Ryan Baker, and police chief Don Roper.
41. The **Pinewood Elementary** student council challenged all students and staff members to conduct acts of kindness. For every act, participants were asked to sign a small paper heart, which was placed on a large paper heart hanging inside the school. In just three days, the students and staff had the large paper heart covered completely with the small paper hearts representing the individual acts of kindness.
42. Students at **Pinewood Elementary** enjoyed a visit from "Hugo the Hornet," who brought the Charlotte Hornets' book bus to the school and gave a fun presentation about the importance of reading.
43. **Lingerfeldt Elementary** has established community/business partnerships with Union Presbyterian Church and Chemtura. Through the partnerships, the school has received new items for the playground and other equipment.
44. **Carr Elementary** conducted the "Great Kindness Challenge." The fourth and fifth grade classes researched and compiled quotes about kindness and shared them during the morning announcements. The students were asked to wear something yellow on January 25 to remind each other about the importance of being kind. Additionally, all students gathered outside on the playground and stood in the shape of a heart. With help from the Dallas Fire Department and teacher **Becky Perkins**, a picture with a bird's-eye view was taken of the students.

- Classroom Moment – Instructional Differentiation.
- Operations Committee Report.
- Curriculum and Instruction Committee Report.
- Consider the Annual Engagement Letter with Independent Auditors.
- Consider the School Calendars:
  - A. Gaston County Schools Calendars, 2017-2018 and 2018-2019.
  - B. Gaston Early College High School Calendar, 2017-2018.
- 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.
  - Contract – Athletic Trainers.
  - Middle School Athletics.
  - Board Policy 3610 (Revision) Extracurricular Activities and Student Organizations.
  - Contract – Educational Partners International (EPI).
  - Grant Application – 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Center.
  - Construction/Repair Change Orders.
- Superintendent's Comments.
- Closed Session – Property and Personnel.

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