

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, February 19, 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 December 18, 2017 meeting.
- Receive the following Good News for January/February 2018:

1. **Bobbie Cavnar**, an English teacher at **South Point High School** and the 2016-2017 North Carolina Teacher of the Year, won the NEA Foundation’s national award for teaching excellence during the organization’s Salute to Excellence in Education Gala in Washington, D.C. The award includes a \$25,000 prize.
2. The five finalists for 2018-2019 Gaston County Principal of the Year are **Bryan Denton, Cramerton Middle; Laura Dixon, W.A. Bess Elementary; Kelli Howe, Webb Street School; Denise McLean, Highland School of Technology;** and **Loretta Reed, Grier Middle.**
3. Students from **Ashbrook, Cramerton, Stuart W. Cramer, East Gaston, Forestview, Gaston Early College,** and **North Gaston** earned 38 awards in the Mid-Carolina Regional Scholastic Art and Writing Awards program. The students won nine Gold Key, 14 Silver Key, and 15 honorable mentions.
4. Three student-athletes captured state championships at the 3A indoor track meet. **Ben Finger** of **North Gaston High School** won the boys pole vault; **Hassani Burris** of **Ashbrook High School** won the girls triple jump; and **Aveon Reid** of **Forestview High School** won the boys 55-meter hurdles.
5. The **Gaston County Schools** Communications Department received eight Blue Ribbon Awards from the North Carolina School Public Relations Association during a ceremony on January 26 in Greensboro. The awards recognize the department’s efforts in video production, special events, publications, graphics, and digital media engagement. Gaston County was among 38 school districts in North Carolina to win Blue Ribbon Awards this year for effective school communications and public relations.
6. Students from **East Gaston High School** and **Forestview High School** collaborated on an art exhibit titled “Investigations into the Exquisite Corpse.” Now on display in the Jeanne Rauch Gallery at Gaston College, the exhibit brings attention to “exquisite corpse,” which is an artistic method where one artist creates an artistic element and then another artist incorporates the element into his/her work.
7. **Pleasant Ridge Elementary** received a donation of more than 100 musical instruments and \$2,000 for instrument upkeep from National Pawn. During a special assembly to announce National Pawn’s donation of musical instruments, several students acted as reporters to cover the big announcement and had an opportunity to have their picture taken with members of the news media.
8. **Bessemer City High School** assistant principal **Meghan LeFevers** won the 2017-2018 Milken Educator Award for North Carolina. The award is presented by the Milken Family Foundation to recognize promising educational leaders and includes a \$25,000 prize. It honors LeFevers for her diligent work with students with special needs and students who are considered ‘at-risk.’
9. **Wesley Summey** and **Jakob Moss** of **Bessemer City High School** signed a national letter of intent to play baseball at Surry Community College.
10. **Gaston Early College High School** held a celebration to bring attention to the school earning an A performance grade for the past three years on the state accountability program. A highlight was the presentation of “Three-Peat” t-shirts to all students.
11. **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. Students from **Stanley Middle School** were at the game to cheer on the teams and present more than \$3,600 that they raised to support the school’s efforts to build an all-inclusive playground.
12. **Webb Street School** held a ribbon-cutting ceremony to recognize the Carrie E. and Lena V. Glenn Foundation for contributing \$30,000 to the school’s aquaponics program. The school also received a \$5,000 donation from the Gaston County Education Foundation in partnership with California philanthropist David Pyle and Natalie Tindol of Tindol Ford-Subaru-ROUSH to support the playground project.
13. **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: **Justin Chapman, Chavis Middle School; Mercy Le, Cramerton Middle School; Garrett Chitwood, Bessemer City High School; Taylor Hope and Payton Huffman, Cherryville High School; Lathan Birmingham, Robbie Holmes, Mary Elizabeth Martin, and Chris Schiavoni, Stuart W. Cramer High School; Ariana Stephenson, East Gaston High School; William Buzzeo and Sophia Raspanti, Forestview High School; Trivice Sadler, Highland School of Technology; Kathleen Huffsmith, Hunter Huss High School;** and **Garvin Collins, Luke McCormick, Jackson Peck, Seline Pons, and Christopher Seay, South Point High School.**
14. The following high school students participated in the UNC-Charlotte Invitational Honors Band and received scholarships: **Lathan Birmingham** of **Stuart W. Cramer**, first chair in the clarinet section and received an award for outstanding musicianship, \$10,000; **Dillon Wilson** of **Stuart W. Cramer**, first chair in the French horn section, \$8,000; **Gina Palisi** of **Stuart W. Cramer**, sixth chair in the flute section, \$8,000; **Kathleen Huffsmith** of **Hunter Huss**, first chair in the tuba section and received an award for outstanding musicianship, \$10,000; **Tryon McCollough** of **Hunter Huss**, seventh chair in percussion, \$8,000; **Raven Anderson** of **Hunter Huss**, fifth chair in the flute section, \$8,000; **Kaylie Crawford** of **Hunter Huss**, second chair in the flute section, \$8,000; **Keinoria Foster** of **Hunter Huss**, seventh chair in the flute section, \$8,000; **Rafael Villafuerte** of **Hunter Huss**, second chair in the tuba section, \$8,000; **Marquise Brown** of **Hunter Huss**, first chair in the euphonium section, \$8,000; and **Ayuana Rivas** of **Hunter Huss**, sixth chair in the trumpet section, \$8,000.
15. The following students from **Forestview High School** and **North Gaston High School** were chosen to participate in the UNC-Charlotte Invitational Honors Band. The students were nominated by their band director and chosen by the UNCC faculty for the band clinic. The **North Gaston** students are **Cecilia Chan** (flute), **Alondra Martinez** (trumpet), and **Zakiyah McCullough** (baritone). The **Forestview** students were **Riley Bramwell** (trumpet), **Elizabeth Covington** (percussion), **Aaron Gigliotti** (trumpet), **Sam Kaylor** (tuba), **Ally Koone** (trombone), **Grace Le** (flute), **Manny Ninyeh** (bass clarinet), **Matthew Shelley** (trumpet), **Leah Snyder** (alto saxophone), and **Kaley Zeccola** (clarinet).
16. The **Ashbrook High School** girls basketball team earned a No. 1 ranking in the N.C. Preps statewide media polls.

17. **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 honored the adults who volunteer to mentor a child. First A.R.P. Church, Mann+Hummel, Advanced Imaging Systems, and Furlong Financial sponsored the event.
18. **Lowell Elementary** (partnered with PSNC Energy) won the “Are You Smarter Than a Gaston County Fifth Grader?” competition. **Lingerfeldt Elementary** earned second place and **Sadler Elementary** took third place. Sponsored by the Gaston County Education Foundation, the popular annual event pairs businesses and organizations with elementary schools in a fun game show format. Proceeds benefit the Ron L. Ensley grant program for teachers to fund innovative classroom lessons and projects.
19. **Tryon Elementary** collected 103 coats and 19 pairs of gloves for The Salvation Army. Fifth grade student **Journey Grier** organized the drive.
20. **Gaston County Schools** held its “Pinnacle Smackdown” event that showcases how teachers use technology in the classroom. More than 70 educators involved in the Pinnacle Leaders program shared helpful tips and information about how to engage students in learning through the use of computers and other digital devices.
21. The following middle school teams won county championships for the fall season: **Cramerton** (golf, boys soccer, and wrestling); **Mount Holly** (softball and volleyball); and **Southwest** (football).
22. **South Point High School** junior **Larry Dowdy** was named to the Associated Press all-state football team. He is one of only eight juniors to be named to the team. Additionally, football players **Phillip Davis** and **Matthew Robinson** visited the Shriners Hospital for Children as part of their selection to play in the Shrine Bowl of the Carolinas.
23. **Carr Elementary** received a \$4,000 Toolbox for Education grant from Lowe’s to support the school’s outdoor classroom and greenhouse project.
24. The **Holbrook Middle** Beta Club partnered with Bank of America for the second annual holiday drive and collected items to mail to the U.S. Army 182nd Airborne unit.
25. **Hunter Huss High School** student **Tez Price** made a commitment to play football at Charleston Southern University. A defensive back, he made 19 tackles, deflected 12 passes, and intercepted four passes last season, earning all-conference honors.
26. **Jamar McKoy** of **Hunter Huss High School** was chosen as one of five finalists for the Rose Bowl’s “Coaches Making a Difference” contest. He also was selected for the Carolina Panthers ‘Coach of the Week’ recognition and was honored during an on-field presentation in December.
27. **York Chester Middle School** honored local veterans during a citizenship character education assembly. The **Ashbrook JROTC** presented the colors during the program.
28. **Page Primary** collected 800 food items for needy families. Students in **Holly Rudisill’s** class collected 360 canned items and were treated to a pizza party.
29. The following students were winners in the **Belmont Middle** geography bee: **Henry Southard**, first place; **Eric Rodenberger**, second place; and **Ethan Wilson**, third place.
30. The **Chavis Middle School** Beta Club collected 770 non-perishable food items for the Cherryville Area Ministries. **Jeff Pruett’s** class collected the most items. The school also received a \$5,000 Toolbox for Education grant from Lowe’s to purchase Chromebooks and a Chromebook cart for the Encore classes.
31. **North Gaston** junior **Spencer Britton** surpassed the 1,000-point scoring milestone in basketball. Additionally, junior **Alicia Hutchinson** finished third and sixth in the 50-yard and 100-yard freestyle competition at the 3A state swimming championship.
32. **East Gaston High School** sophomore **Carter Beck** was selected for the United States Region 3 Development Soccer Team that represents the best players in North Carolina, South Carolina, Florida, Alabama, Tennessee, and Virginia. The team will play local academy teams and train with the FC Benfica professional sports club in Portugal.
33. **Gardner Park Elementary** fifth grade teacher **Haley Throneburg’s** class created cards to share messages of hope and encouragement with children who are part of the “Molly’s Kids” program. WBTV anchor Molly Grantham, who puts the spotlight on children and teenagers who face health issues, featured the cards during a recent news segment.
34. **Gardner Park Elementary** hosted Classroom Central’s school supplies truck for 150 teachers to receive a box of supplies for their classroom.
35. Elementary students at the following schools celebrated the 100th day of school by dressing as centenarians: **Belmont Central, W.A. Bess, Cherryville, Gardner Park, New Hope, Pleasant Ridge, Pinewood, Sherwood, and Webb Street School.**

- Receive information regarding the Appointment of South Point Township Board Member.
- Receive information regarding School Board Recognition Month.
- Classroom Moment.
- Consider the Award RFP for Wide Area Network (WAN).
- Receive information regarding the AdvancED Accreditation Review.
- Consider the Annual Engagement Letter with Independent Auditors.
- 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.
 - Teacher Contracts Policy 7411 – Revision.
 - Sibling Policy 4171 – Adoption.
 - End-of-Grade/End-of-Course Summer School.
 - Sole Source Provider: Security Cameras.
- Superintendent’s Comments.
- Closed Session – Personnel.

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