

GASTON COUNTY SCHOOLS

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 18, 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 January 7, 2019 and January 18, 2019 meetings.
 - Receive the following Good News for January/February 2019:
1. The **Gaston County Schools** “Nickels 4 Neighbors” fundraising campaign to help schools in eastern North Carolina that were affected by Hurricane Florence collected \$17,749.61. The money was distributed to help students and their families in Craven County Schools, Jones County Public Schools, Onslow County Schools, and Pender County Schools.
 2. The following students earned awards at the Region VI Science and Engineering Fair held at UNC-Charlotte: **Lydia Robertson, Hawks Nest STEAM Academy; Avery Davis, Regan Kaufmann, Joy Jordan, Grace Fletcher, Ashton Green, Ian McGinnis and Aidan Tobin, Belmont Middle; Mackenzie Fallin, Ashbrook High School; and Holly Mullen, Christina Rogers, Andrea Tejada, Erin Jarrell, Hannah Murrow, and Kennedy Ballard, East Gaston High School.**
 3. Six students will represent **Gaston County Schools** in the N.C. Science and Engineering Fair after winning top honors at the regional competition. Advancing to the state science fair in the middle school division is **Avery Davis of Belmont Middle School.** Advancing in the high school division are **Mackenzie Fallin of Ashbrook High School, and Holly Mullen, Christina Rodgers, Hannah Murrow, and Kennedy Ballard of East Gaston High School.**
 4. The **Gaston County Schools** Communications Department received 12 Blue Ribbon Awards from the North Carolina School Public Relations Association during a ceremony on February 1 in Greensboro. The awards recognize the department’s efforts in video production, special events and programs, publications, writing, and digital media engagement. Additionally, Gaston County earned the “Best of the Best” award in the special events and programs category for the “Big 50 Parade.” Thirty-one school districts in North Carolina were honored as Blue Ribbon Award winners for effective school communications and public relations.
 5. **Gaston County Schools** honored 12 educators who earned National Board Certification, which is the highest standard for the teaching profession. They are **Megan Christenbury and Alexandra Fitschen, Lowell Elementary; Karen Coffey, McAdenville Elementary; Carla Fletcher, Page Primary; Jaime Keller, North Belmont Elementary; Victoria Kiser and Jennifer MacDonald, Stuart W. Cramer High School; Jennifer Melton, Brookside Elementary; Erin Morehead, Bessemer City Primary; Ashley Rimmer, Ashbrook High School; Justin Willyoung, Cherryville High School; and Samantha Wong, Carr Elementary.**
 6. The five finalists for Gaston County Principal of the Year 2019-2020 are **Chad Carper, Chapel Grove Elementary; Bryan Denton, Hunter Huss High School; Laura Dixon, W.A. Bess Elementary; Kelli Howe, Webb Street School; and Rebecca Wilson, Ashbrook High School.**
 7. **Gaston County Schools** had more than 350 outstanding middle school and high school musicians to participate in the all-county band concert on February 9 at **Ashbrook High School.** The event featured performances by two middle school groups, the high school symphonic band, and the high school wind ensemble. Students were chosen for the all-county band clinic through an audition process.
 8. **Lowell Elementary** (partnered with Dominion Energy) won the “Are You Smarter Than a Gaston County Fifth Grader?” competition. **Kiser Elementary** earned second place and **McAdenville 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 grants program for teachers to fund innovative classroom lessons and projects.
 9. **W.A. Bess Elementary** second grader **Curren Tippett** collected donations for the Tri-County Animal Rescue program.
 10. **W.A. Bess Elementary** fifth grade teacher **Leah Suggs** and two of her students, **Ardyn Thornburg** and **Leila Aries**, led a book drive to support The Cato School of Education at Queens University. The Cato School of Education gives to others who might not have books to read.
 11. The “Do the Right Thing” award winners for January were **Gabriel Harrington, W.A. Bess Elementary; Jayden Sanders, Webb Street School; and Kevin Walters, Forestview High School.** The awards program recognizes students for outstanding leadership, service, and character.
 12. **Stuart W. Cramer High School** hosted the South Central All-District Band Clinic, which featured more than 300 outstanding student musicians from across the Charlotte region. The following Gaston County students were chosen for the band: **Jerry Bradley, Belmont Middle School; Luke Baker and Russell Putnam, W.C. Friday Middle School; Devin Sneed, Grier Middle School; Isabel Suarez, Mount Holly Middle School; Madison Johns and Mattie Grace Branham, Stanley Middle School; Bryan Vera Villarreal, York Chester Middle School; Payton Huffman, Cherryville High School; James Hoyle, Trivice Sadler, Mary Elizabeth Martin, Johanna Talamantes-Perez, Chris Schiavoni, and Dillon Wilson, Stuart W. Cramer High School; Ariana Stephenson, East Gaston High School; Zachary Dubisky, Riley Bramwell, and William Buzzeo, Forestview High School; Isaak Gibson, North Gaston High School; and Emma Morgan, Sam Evans, Joey Cavender, Seline Pons, and Luke McCormick, South Point High School.**
 13. **Ami Parker**, director of counseling services for **Gaston County Schools**, was elected to serve as president of the N.C. School Counselor Association. She succeeds **Tim Hardin**, school counselor at **Sadler Elementary**, who is the association’s outgoing president.
 14. Classroom Central brought its VROOM truck to **Woodhill Elementary School**, and more than 150 teachers from across the county had the opportunity to “shop” for classroom supplies. The donated supplies were valued at \$45,000. In addition, representatives from the Community Foundation of Gaston County and the Carrie E. and Lena V. Glenn Foundation stopped by to renew their support of Classroom Central’s work in Gaston County. Both foundations have supported Classroom Central’s mission since 2011.
 15. The following schools won county sports championships: **Belmont Middle**, volleyball; and **Cramerton Middle**, wrestling and soccer.
 16. **Ashbrook High School** senior **Jadeanne Grant** received the Gaston County JROTC Outstanding Service Scholarship. The scholarship valued at \$2,000 was presented to Grant during the Carolina World Trade Association’s “Salute to Troops” dinner.
 17. **H.H. Beam Elementary** hosted a food drive for The Salvation Army and collected more than 1,000 items. **Ashley Warlick’s** second grade class collected the most items and loaded the truck. School counselor **Mary Warner** organized the collection.
 18. Every second grade student at **H.H. Beam Elementary** received a bicycle, helmet, and lock from the Gastonia Rotary Club. Club members presented the bicycles during a special program that featured a hot dog lunch for students and their families as well as bike and helmet safety lessons by the Gastonia Police Department.
 19. **York Chester Middle School** band teacher **Julian Wilson** was named Gaston County Schools Band Director of the Year.
 20. The **Bessemer City High School** winners of the “Say It All In Six Words” contest at the Bessemer City Public Library were **Shelby Madison**, first place; **Cheyamme Ferrell**, second place; **Keely Bolt**, third place; and **Ladameion Butler**, librarian’s choice.
 21. **Bessemer City Middle School** and **Forestview High School** was recognized as winners of the “I Love A Clean School” contest sponsored by Keep Gastonia Beautiful.

22. **Bessemer City Middle School** participated in the Great Kindness Challenge the week of January 28. The challenge is conducted worldwide and many schools in Gaston County said “yes” to the challenge. Classrooms participated by planning and implementing kindness activities throughout the week. Activities included putting sticky notes on lockers with encouraging messages, picking up trash around our campus, providing treats and goodies to classmates and staff members, and writing thank you notes to staff members. Students also were encouraged to complete a checklist of 50 kindness challenges on their own.
23. **Brookside Elementary** held a “Whoville” door decorating contest. Board member **Dot Cherry** served as a guest judge. The winning classrooms were **Rebecca Abernathy**, **Telicia Helms**, and **Michelle Leagan**. In addition, the **Holbrook Middle School** chorus presented a wonderful concert.
24. Students in the **Forestview High School** Core and Sustainable Construction class built shipping crates for Fireman’s Faith Ministry to send donated fire equipment to Nicaragua.
25. **Carr Elementary** held a community open house on January 27. More than 400 people attended the family reunion-style event for students, parents, teachers, former students, former employees, and others to come together for a time of fellowship and reminiscing.
26. **East Gaston High School** JROTC teacher **Master Sgt. Samuel Taylor** made a surprise visit to Iron Station Elementary in Lincolnton after receiving several letters from students, thanking him for his military service.
27. **East Gaston High School** held a Christmas tree decorating contest. Following the contest, the trees were delivered to Stanley Total Living Center. In addition, the Beta Club collected stuff animals, children books, and art supplies for Levine Children’s Hospital.
28. **Gaston Early College High School** held a celebration to bring attention to the school earning an A performance grade for the past four years on the state accountability program. A highlight was the presentation of “Four-Pear” T-shirts to all students.
29. **Gaston Early College High School** held its fifth annual “Cuts for Kindness” event. Sixteen students and faculty members cut eight-inch locks of their hair, which will be donated to Children with Hair Loss, a nonprofit organization in Michigan. In addition, students donated 1,385 food and drink items to Cancer Services of Gaston County.
30. **Highland School of Technology** senior **Addison Beam** signed a national letter of intent to play golf at Appalachian State University. In addition, the school celebrated Beam’s 1-A individual state title (2018) and the 10th anniversary of its first men’s championship golf team (2009-2010) during halftime at a recent basketball game.
31. The **Holbrook Middle School** Robotics Club, in collaboration with local business Speed Street Collision Center, took part in two holiday service projects. Club members collected canned goods and other trimmings while Speed Street Collision Center generously provided turkeys and hams for several needy families in the community. The students also crafted holiday cards for senior citizens at a local assisted living center.
32. **Hunter Huss High School** senior **Jennifer Galarzav** won the Gaston Music Education Foundation’s college scholarship. During the audition, she performed “Nel cor piu non mi sento” by Paisiello and “Habenera” by Bizet (French). She also passed a written musical theory test with a score of 93 out of 100 points.
33. **Hunter Huss High School** held a National Signing Day ceremony to celebrate the academic and athletic achievements of several students. The following students received scholarships: **Jamal Littlejohn**, Coffeyville Community College; **Jahiem Mullen**, Western Carolina University; **Marcus Mauney**, Yale University; **Damarius Davis**, RAMA Academy; **Prince Bemah**, UNC-Charlotte; **Chase Williamson**, North Carolina A&T University; **Dondra Burris**, Averette University; and **Nigel Hatte**, Johnson C. Smith University.
34. **York Chester Middle School** participated in the Great Kindness Challenge. To kick off the week, school staff wore shirts that said “KINDNESS IS ALWAYS COOL @YorkChesterMS,” and the sixth grade chorus sang the theme song, “Kind-Hearted Hand.”
35. **York Chester Middle School** recognized local veterans during a citizenship character education assembly. Each guest spoke about their service to country and the importance of being a good citizen. In addition, the school won a \$300 grant from Keep Gastonia Beautiful.
36. **Kiser Elementary** participated in the Great Kindness Challenge. Through this challenge, fifth graders collected 1,000 canned goods. In addition, the school partnered with **Kyra Rhyme** of the **Gaston Early College High School** and participated in “Valentines for Veterans.”
37. **Lowell Elementary** kicked off the month of February with the Great Kindness Challenge. The Kindness and Caring Club promoted a week of spirit activities to be kind to others. In addition, the school developed a kindness calendar that features different activities for students to do each day.
38. To kick off the Great Kindness Challenge at **Robinson Elementary**, Gastonia Mayor Walker Reid read a proclamation, school counselor **Fran Ellis** lead the school in a kindness song, and several teachers read a quote about kindness.
39. **Sadler Elementary** received a \$5,000 grant from an anonymous donor through the Community Foundation of Gaston County. The money was used to purchase additional books for classroom libraries.
40. **Sadler Elementary** received donations from the Second Harvest Food Bank and its “Santa Express” program. Every child was given a bag of pears as well as a toothbrush/toothpaste kit. In addition, a large pallet of school supplies were delivered and distributed to each classroom.
41. Every student at **Springfield Elementary** received a winter coat. The giveaway was organized by Operation Warm, a non-profit organization that partners with the Hollister clothing company to manufacture and provide the coats. The group, United in Action of Stanley Churches, led the fundraising and community outreach effort.
42. **Stanley Middle School** students performed 4,183 acts of kindness during the Great Kindness Challenge. In addition, the school’s PTO has sponsored STEAM clubs, which students participate in weekly, and the school cafeteria staff supported the STEAM initiative with bi-weekly STEAM challenges for students.
43. **Tryon Elementary** was selected to receive a Duke Energy Science Night kit to participate in the 2019 North Carolina Science Festival. The kit provides activity guides for 10 hands-on science activities and materials for 200 participants.

- School Board Recognition Month.
- Classroom Moment.
- Operations Committee Report.
- Curriculum and Instruction Committee Report.
- Receive information regarding End-of-Grade and End-of-Course Summer School.
- School Choice Update.
- 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.
 - Annual Microsoft Licensing Agreement.
 - Eligibility for Transfer Athletes – Policy 4316.
 - Contracts: Selection of Independent Auditor for Fiscal Year 2019-2021.
- Superintendent’s Comments.
- Closed Session – Personnel and Consultation with Attorney.

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